



**SPECIAL INTERVIEW**  
INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JAISHANKAR:  
STRONGER SAUDI-INDIA TIES ARE 'GOOD  
FOR REGION, GOOD FOR WORLD' Page 3

**SPORT**  
HERVE  
RENARD  
OFFERS FINAL  
CHANCES FOR  
SAUDI WORLD  
CUP SQUAD  
AT SPANISH  
TRAINING CAMP  
Page 15



**OPINION**  
WEST TURNS A BLIND  
EYE AS DAESH GROWS  
AND PROSPERS  
By Baria Alamuddin  
Page 9



**&FINALLY**  
SAUDI SOCIAL  
INFLUENCER  
MODEL ROZ  
STUNS AT NEW  
YORK FASHION  
WEEK  
Page 16



TUESDAY, September 13, 2022  
Safar 17, 1444  
www.arabnews.com

# ARAB NEWS

The Voice of a Changing Region

SINCE 1975

TERROR THREAT

## 3 soldiers die as new battle rages in Yemen

Bid to drive Al-Qaeda out of southern province

Saeed Al-Batati Al-Mukalla

At least three Yemeni soldiers were killed and six wounded on Monday in fierce fighting with Al-Qaeda militants in the southern province of Abyan.

2 Riyals • Vol. XLVII  
No. 281 • 16 pages



The soldiers died when their vehicles ran over an Al-Qaeda improvised explosive device in Moudia, as Yemeni troops pushed deeper into remote areas of the district.

"Al-Qaeda militants cannot halt the advance of southern troops, but they laid mines and attacked quickly before fleeing," a local official told Arab News.

The Yemeni troops, mainly commanded by the separatist Southern Transitional Council, have cleared pockets of Al-Qaeda fighters about 35 km east of Moudia, and are still pushing into the more remote areas of Abyan.

Residents heard large explosions and saw thick smoke billowing

from mountainous areas east of Moudia on Monday, as advancing forces exchanged fire with Al-Qaeda militants.

The fighting in Abyan is part of an offensive that began on Saturday to drive Al-Qaeda from their hiding places in Abyan and Shabwa, from where they launch deadly attacks on government-controlled areas.

Since the offensive began, the military has gained control of a swath of territory in Abyan, including three valleys that each house Al-Qaeda training facilities. Security forces also entered Khabir Al-Marakesha, an area of arid and mountainous terrain that is the home of Al-Qaeda militants.



**War in Europe:** Residents move their belongings on Monday from a building partially destroyed by a missile strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

AFP

Report  
Page 8

DIPLOMACY

## No Iran deal soon, German leader says

Arab News Jeddah

There will be no revived nuclear deal with Iran "in the near future," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Monday.

"It certainly won't happen soon," Scholz said. "We remain patient, but we also remain clear: Iran must be prevented from being able to deploy nuclear weapons."

Scholz spoke during a visit to Germany by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who said it was "time to move past the failed negotiations with Iran."

Lapid said: "They cannot and will not achieve the goal we all share, to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Israel's campaign to block the deal was working, Lapid said. "There is still a long way to go, but there are encouraging signs."

  
**ROLEX**

OYSTER PERPETUAL EXPLORER

صديق ومحمد عطار  
SADDIK & MOHAMED ATTAR

الرياض | جدة | مكة المكرمة | المدينة المنورة  
MADINAH | MAKKAH | JEDDAH | RIYADH

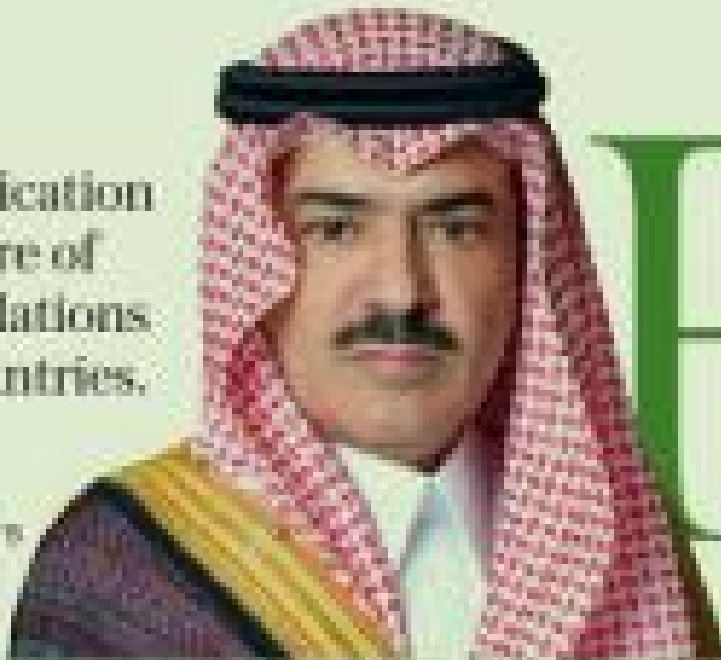
WWW.SMATTARCO.COM





The Gulf-Jordanian Communication Forum will discuss the future of economic investments and relations between Jordan and GCC countries.

**Ahlan Al-Ahlan**  
President of the Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers



# Radar

## KSA today



**Dhahran**  
**Trivia night**

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture will be hosting a general knowledge trivia night at its Energy Exhibit. To book and for more details see the Ithra app.



**Alkhobar**  
**Karaoke rooms**

Budding vocalists can sing with confidence and without fear of disturbing others by booking a room at Yello Karaoke. For package details and further information visit the Hala Yalla app.



**Riyadh**  
**Chess workshop**

A chess-playing workshop for beginners will be held in Riyadh on Tuesday showing participants the basics and history of the game. To book, go to experiences.suplift.com.



**Jeddah**  
**Water fun**

Shadi Ashour is offering a variety of water activities at Ashour Beach, open on Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. More information and booking details are available at experiences.suplift.com.

## The Register

THE PICTURES THAT MARK THE DAY



Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Yemen met with the United States' Envoy to Yemen Timothy Lenderking in Riyadh on Monday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Ambassador Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Jaber held a meeting with Lenderking

and the US ambassador to Yemen, Steven Pagan, on the importance of maintaining the UN-brokered truce in Yemen. During the meeting, the officials discussed joint efforts to make the truce a success and noted the importance of the Houthis militia's commitment to its

terms. They also discussed the need to open the roads leading to Taiz to ease the humanitarian suffering of civilians. They also said the aim is to reach a permanent ceasefire in Yemen in order to start the political process between the Yemeni government and the Houthis.

## What's Trending

Today's hot topics explained by Nada Jan



**FIRST BABY**  
**Sam Frost**

Sam Frost and her fiancé Jordie Hansen have announced they are expecting their first child. The Australian actress shared the news on Instagram with a photo of the couple holding an ultrasound image. "There is a tiny human coming soon ... everyone act surprised when he inevitably inherits his parents' odd sense of humour," wrote the mum-to-be on Sunday. "We don't take ourselves or life too seriously, and we're hoping to teach our tiny one the same values we share ..." she said. "The importance of being unapologetically yourself, always finding the fun and humour in all the small things, and that being kind, loving and empathetic is a superpower. "Thank you to all our beautiful friends and family who have supported us during this time, you're all excellent secret keepers," she added. "We are extremely excited and grateful for our tiny miracle ... your mum and dad love you so much already." The announcement comes a month after Frost explained to a follower why she would not take her husband-to-be's last name. "My friend wants to know how you will explain to your future children why their mother has a different surname to them," said the follower, named Mike. "It will be quite easy and simple Mike," Frost responded. "I will tell them, it's because I didn't want to."

**MUICK AND SANDY**  
**Sarah Ferguson**

Prince Andrew and his former wife Sarah Ferguson will become the new owners of Queen Elizabeth II's two corgis. A spokesperson for the Duke of York said that Muick and Sandy will live at the Royal Lodge in Windsor, where the divorced couple live. The dogs were given by the Yorks as gifts during the pandemic last year. Muick, named after Loch Muick, the late monarch's favorite summer spot near Balmoral Castle, arrived along with a corgi-dachshund cross named Fergus in the months leading up to the death of her husband Prince Philip in April 2021. Fergus, named after the queen's maternal uncle Fergus Bowes-Lyon, died shortly after Philip, further devastating the queen. Prince Andrew's

daughters Beatrice and Eugenie then gave her Sandy on her 95th birthday. A source close to Prince Andrew told The Telegraph that the dogs were one of the reasons why the queen and the duchess of York remained close. "Even after her divorce, she would continue her great friendship with Her Majesty, by walking the dogs in Frogmore and chatting," the source said. The queen was known for her passionate love for corgis and owned more than 30 throughout her life. According to her dresser Angela Kelly, the dogs were a constant source of delight to the late monarch. Her first, Doodie, arrived when she was seven years old. Her most famous corgi was Susan, which she took with her on her honeymoon in 1947.



Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew

## Today's Number

# 70k

The Human Resources Development Fund confirmed that over 70,000 graduates with a diploma, a bachelor's degree, or higher have benefited from the on-the-job training program Tamheer since its launch in 2017.

## Who's Who



**Faisal Albedah**

Faisal Albedah is the managing director and CEO for SAL Saudi Logistics Services company. Albedah has extensive experience in logistics, supply chain management and business development. His core focus is on large-scale implementations on behalf of high-profile organizations in the private and public sectors. Since 2022, Albedah has been working as managing director and CEO for SAL Saudi Logistics Services company. Prior to that, he held multiple government positions, as secretary-general for the Saudi Export Development Authority, secretary-general for the National Logistics Services Committee, and adviser to the minister of municipal and rural affairs. He also worked for Saudi Customs as the deputy governor for trade facilitation, and had overseen the establishment of the Trade Facilitation Office, which has made great strides in streamlining import and export processes in the Kingdom. From 2015 to 2017, he was employed as supply chain director at Diavrum and oversaw the implementation of the firm's new supply chain operations and played a key role in the company's expansion into key Gulf markets. From 2010 to 2015, he held the role of senior supply manager at Baxter Healthcare MEA, based in Dubai. In this role, he oversaw the company's supply chain operations across the Gulf states, Yemen and South Africa. Albedah also held senior business development and supply chain management roles with a range of high-profile private enterprises, including Jadwa Investment, Saudi Industrial Investment Group and Arabian Health Care Supply Company. Albedah's current and past roles include serving as board member and committee member for multiple public and private entities including NUPCO company, SAL Saudi Logistics Services, SAUDI EXIM Bank, Saudi Export Development Authority, and the Saudi Foreign Trade Authority.

## TheRegion

The Middle East Roundup

**Arab News Dubai**

•Children will be able to try their hand at making cereal bowls as part of a family activity event being held on Tuesday starting 6 p.m. at LuLa Hypermarket in Dana Mall, Manama, Bahrain.

•Individual express tours of collection highlights at the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum are currently

available to visitors.

•The Red Bull Symphonic event being staged on Friday in Amman will see composer and conductor Haitham Sukkarieh's classical orchestra combine with Autostrad's modern music.

•The annual Gulf Bride exhibition event will take place at Sheikh Rashid Hall in Dubai

from Wednesday until Sept. 18, displaying the latest bridal trends, from clothes to accessories, for designers, artists, professionals, corporate manufacturers, and visitors.

•Experience the thrill of kitesurfing in the Arabian Gulf with professional instructor Sarah Lord, who is based in the Qatari capital Doha.

### Prayer Times in Saudi Arabia

Sept. 13	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Isha
Makkah	4:52	6:07	12:17	3:42	6:25	7:55
Madinah	4:50	6:07	12:18	3:45	6:27	7:57
Riyadh	4:21	5:38	11:49	3:17	5:59	7:29
Abha	4:43	5:57	12:06	3:29	6:14	7:44
Dammam	4:06	5:24	11:36	3:04	5:46	7:16





# Special Interview



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman receives a letter on Monday from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. Supplied

**This partnership plays a stabilizing role in the region. The two countries share synergies in the economic domain. There is immense scope for increasing two-way investment.**

Noor Nugall Riyadh

**SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR**  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

## Stronger Saudi-India ties are 'good for us, good for the region, good for the world'

As key players in the emerging multipolar world order, India and the Kingdom are working together in several areas to achieve their common objectives, says Indian diplomat-turned-cabinet minister

**S**audi Arabia and India are approaching their relationship keeping in mind the larger global context, Dr. S. Jaishankar told Arab News in an exclusive interview during his first official visit to the Kingdom as the external affairs minister of India.

"In a world that has seen the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts such as the ongoing one in Ukraine, or indeed climate events, it is essential that our relationship becomes a growing factor of stability. This is good for us, good for the region and good for the world," he said.

"The objective of both countries is to identify complementarities that enable us to expand our cooperation as rapidly as possible. It would require collaborative activities, mutual investments, coordinated policies and greater mobility."

Relations between Saudi Arabia and India historically have been strong, with Indians constituting the largest community of foreign workers in the Kingdom and one of their home country's biggest sources of inward remittances. Some 200,000 pilgrims from India, where Islam is the second-largest religion, traveled to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj in 2019, before the pandemic.

For its part, Saudi Arabia has consistently been among the top three suppliers of energy to India, the world's third-biggest oil-importing and consuming nation. The two are also members of the G20 intergovernmental forum as well as the Non-Aligned Movement.

In recent years, relations between Saudi Arabia and India have expanded into other fields, notably security, trade, investment, health, food security, culture and defense. The two governments remained in close touch during the pandemic.

On Monday, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received Jaishankar in Jeddah. During the meeting, the minister delivered to the crown prince a letter from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We are important players in the emerging multipolar world order and there are several areas in which both our countries are working together," Jaishankar told Arab News.

"India is a large economy and our focus remains on economic growth and development of 1.3 billion-plus people of India. This also gives a great opportunity for Saudi Arabia to make investments in India and



Jaishankar with Arab News Assistant Editor-in-Chief Noor Nugall in Riyadh. AN photo by Huda Bashatah

work together with us for the mutual benefit of both countries."

Elaborating on this crucial aspect of the Saudi-India relationship, Jaishankar said: "India and Saudi Arabia are major economies and play an important role in shaping the global economy. The two countries are substantial economic partners, with trade valued at about \$42.86 billion during the fiscal year (April 2021 to March 2022).

"This partnership plays a stabilizing role in the region. The two

countries share several synergies in the economic domain. For instance, the two are crucial energy partners and there is immense scope for increasing two-way investment."

He added: "Energy has been a pillar of our cooperation for several decades. We not only want to build further on this but also extend it to the field of renewables including 'green' hydrogen."

A career diplomat who served as India's foreign secretary before his induction into the cabinet in 2019,

Jaishankar gives credit to "the vision and guidance provided by (Indian) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman" for the strengthening of the Saudi-India relationship.

"Their respective visits in 2019 to Saudi Arabia and India provided great momentum to the bilateral relationship and that continued despite the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic," he said.

"These visits led to the formation of the crucial Saudi Arabia-India Strategic Partnership Council, which reflects the mutual desire of both countries to upgrade the level of this relationship. Today our bilateral partnership covers nearly all areas of cooperation, including political, security, defense, economic, energy, cultural and people-to-people ties."

During his three-day visit to Riyadh, Jaishankar co-chaired with his Saudi counterpart, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the inaugural ministerial meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation, established under the framework of the Strategic Partnership Council.

"Formed in October 2019, the

and cultural, and defense domains. The agenda for this ministerial meeting would cover all these areas."

Prince Faisal and Jaishankar reviewed the bilateral relationship and discussed progress under the working groups of the Committee on PSSC. They are understood to have also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest, including their cooperation at the UN, G20 and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"India considers the Gulf region as its extended neighborhood and that naturally means shared interests with Saudi Arabia in the fields of security and defense. We have been constantly strengthening our cooperation in these fields in the spirit of our strategic partnership," Jaishankar said.

"On defense, we have had exchange of visits at the level of army commanders in the past two years and we also had our first joint naval exercise last year. Our Joint Committee on Defense Cooperation met a few months back and identified further areas of cooperation. The Indian defense industry provides exciting opportunities for co-production and investments and that is one area where we hope to make more progress with Saudi Arabia."

Highlighting the importance of security cooperation, he said: "India has been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades. Saudi Arabia has had its own challenges and experiences.

"As terrorism knows no borders or religion and is a menace to humanity, it is but natural that India and Saudi Arabia come together to jointly tackle the threats facing our respective countries by intelligence sharing, developing new technologies, keeping abreast with the modus operandi of terrorists, and by working together in international organizations like the UN and FATF (the Financial Action Task Force)."

Jaishankar added: "Overall, I see good momentum in our economic, energy, security and defense ties and am confident of good progress in coming years."

Looking ahead, he expressed hope that his meetings and the forthcoming visit of fellow cabinet minister Piyush Goyal, in charge of commerce and industry, will prepare the ground for a meeting in the near future of Saudi and Indian leaders.

In Riyadh, Jaishankar also met Saudi dignitaries and Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

### WATCH THE INTERVIEW

Scan this QR code with your smartphone



Strategic Partnership Council has two sub-committees," he said. "The first is the Committee on PSSC and the second is the Committee on Economy and Investments."

"The current ministerial meeting for which I have come (to Saudi Arabia) is of the Committee on PSSC, which focuses on several important areas of bilateral cooperation and has four joint working groups."

"The joint working groups focus on bilateral cooperation in political and consular, legal and security, social



'FRUITFUL DISCUSSION'

# Japan hails Saudi leadership among Arab and Islamic countries

Both nations to to work closely on further strengthening their strategic partnership

Arab News Tokyo

**Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stated that Japan attaches great importance to its relationship with Saudi Arabia as a strategic partner, as it plays a leading role among Arab and Islamic countries, and that Japan will fully support Saudi Arabia's economic and social reforms through the "Japan-Saudi Vision 2030."**

Kishida made the statement during telephone talks held with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday. According to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, they had "fruitful discussions" on energy and the supply and demand situation in the crude oil market, which has been affected by the situation in Ukraine and other factors.

"Prime Minister Kishida

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Both sides agreed to further promote cooperation on this matter and in moving toward the realization of carbon-neutral through the use and promotion of clean energy.
- At the outset, PM Kishida expressed his gratitude for the messages of condolence from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed on the passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- Both sides confirmed that they will carry on former Prime Minister Abe's legacy and further strengthen relations between Japan and Saudi Arabia.

PM Fumio Kishida



expressed his strong hope for Saudi leadership in stabilizing the crude oil market," the ministry said. Both sides agreed to further promote cooperation on this matter and in moving toward the realization of carbon-neutral through the use and promotion of clean energy. At the outset, Kishida expressed his gratitude for the messages of condolence from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed on the passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Both sides confirmed that they will carry on former Prime Minister Abe's legacy and further strengthen relations between Japan and Saudi Arabia. They also agreed to continue to work closely on further strengthening their strategic partnership, including active summit and ministerial-level meetings and visits.



The launch of the robots is part of a smart technology drive at the Grand Mosque in Makkah. Supplied

SMART INITIATIVE

## Robots help worshippers at Grand Mosque in Makkah

Arab News Makkah

Robots will recite the Holy Qur'an and provide information to visitors at Islam's holiest site following the latest technology rollout by the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques. The recitations, sermons and azan robots will feature at the Grand Mosque in Makkah through the work of the imam and muezzin affairs authority. The smart robots will display barcodes enabling users to download services on smartphones. Alternatively, users can press commands on the robots to access information on prayers, imams, muezzins and weekly schedules, including the names of clerics delivering Friday sermons. The launch of the robots by the presidency is part of a series of smart technology projects dedicated to the Two Holy Mosques to provide improved services to visitors. Chief of the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sudais said that the launch is part of a "big strategic plan" to

implement the smart Haramain project, according to Vision 2030 and the strategic 2024 plan of the presidency to provide improved services to visitors. Al-Sudais added that the FASTFACTS

- The smart robots will display barcodes enabling users to download services on smartphones. Alternatively, users can press commands on the robots to access information on prayers, imams, muezzins and weekly schedules.
- The Presidency of the Two Holy Mosque is keen to provide high-quality services, leadership and the latest administrative practices at the Grand Mosque to millions of Muslim visitors from around the world.

attention of the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques is not limited to maximizing the utilization of modern technology in the Two Holy Mosques, but also aims at providing the same technology and and sophisticated services in

the service of visitors. He said that the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosque is ensuring the facilitation of daily services for visitors by reducing physical efforts and enhancing smart technology to keep pace with Vision 2030. Al-Sudais added that the presidency is determined to move forward and keep pace with digital transformation, support technological development, provide a strategy to create task forces and ensure the sustainability of a creative culture. The aim of the recitations, sermons and azan robot is to convey the messages of imams and muezzins of the Two Holy Mosques to visitors. Al-Sudais has launched other smart robots that work without human intervention, including a disinfectant and sterilization robot, fatwa robot, smart disinfectant robot and a Holy Kaaba surface cleaning robot. The Presidency of the Two Holy Mosque is keen to provide high-quality services, leadership and the latest administrative practices at the Grand Mosque to millions of Muslim visitors from around the world.

## TheSpace

### Families behind Kingdom's identity, modernity

FARES AL-GHANNAMI



In recent years, there have been attempts by sections of society and the media to damage the relationship between the two leading family descendants of the Kingdom's founders. Criticism of the Al-Saud and Al-Asheikh families has often been in the form of articles aimed at undermining efforts led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and members of the Al-Asheikh family to promote openness and tolerance in Saudi Arabia, while looking to weaken the strong historical bonds between those who have played a key role in shaping the country's religious and cultural identity. This has been evident in some malicious media articles claiming that the state is attempting to distort the religious image of the Al-Asheikh family. Some articles may prompt people to stigmatize jurists, scholars, and statesmen for allegedly hampering the cultural and religious practices of the Kingdom, in contradiction with historical discourse. The foundations and pillars of cooperation between the Al-Saud and Al-Asheikh families date back to 1747. The main role of the Al-Asheikh family is defined in promoting the doctrinal, religious, and cultural discourse of the Kingdom. One of the accomplishments within the framework of pure monotheism was a project begun by Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulwahhab that distanced religion from the impurities of heresies, myths, and superstitions. The state, in matters of developing and renewing the conversation of religious identity and promoting the values of tolerance of others, has assigned the matter to various people, jurists, and scholars, many of them from the Al-Asheikh family. Some critical articles have been written in a bid to upset the Kingdom's orientation toward restructuring the role of institutions concerned with preserving religious and societal values.

This means that none of the institutions are allowed to undertake the same task as those once carried out by police officials along with members of the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. Alongside the crown prince, the Al-Asheikh family has played an active part in modernizing the country while considering the constraints of its religious identity. Members of the family include Minister of Islamic Affairs Abdullatif Al-Asheikh, who prohibits religious speeches that exclude and reject others. Instead, he has championed speeches that promote the concepts of tolerance and respect and that seek to establish good relations based on every individual's right to exist and have different religious beliefs. Education Minister Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Asheikh has reformulated the curriculum in a way that helps to make the next generation not only more accepting of different points of view but also keen to promote a spirit of peace and coexistence with others. Adviser at the Royal Court and chairman of the General Entertainment Authority's board of directors, Turki Al-Asheikh, is working to turn the Kingdom into a top tourist destination and entertainment hub while encouraging leisure and tourism investment not only related to Hajj and Umrah. Bearing in mind the actions of the Al-Asheikh family in promoting tolerance and opening new horizons for cooperation and acceptance, it is difficult to accept arguments that the state is seeking to undermine the religious symbolism of the Al-Asheikh family and why some individuals are hostile to the development, modernization, and reform policies adopted by the crown prince.

Fares Al-Ghannami is a Saudi writer and intellectual interested in political affairs. Twitter: @farescom200

## The Day's FIGURES

### COVID-19: MOST AFFECTED GCC COUNTRIES



Source: Worldometers

## Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Achievement

### KSA obtains Marine Quality Certificate

Saudi Arabia has become the first country in the Middle East and one of 26 countries in the world to obtain the Marine Quality Certificate in the US. The achievement, awarded by the US Coast Guard, came as a result of visits by the Kingdom's vessels to US ports and a commitment to the highest standards of marine safety. In addition, vessels from the Kingdom adhered to the provisions of international conventions and followed best practices related to preserving the components of the marine environment. The US Coast Guard is the official body responsible for ensuring safety and environmental management in US seaports and sea lanes. The award of the certificate to the Kingdom is a major achievement and an essential step in the development and progress of the Saudi naval fleet, which includes 426 ships. **AN Riyadh**

Cooperation

### Gulf-Jordanian forum to be held Sept. 27

The Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, will organize the third edition of the Gulf-Jordanian Communication Forum in Amman on Sept. 27. The event will be held under the theme: "New aspects for economic and investment cooperation." The two-day event aims to enhance historical relations between GCC member states and Jordan; review investment opportunities in economic, commercial, tourist and health sectors; and address top challenges facing commercial GCC-Jordanian cooperation. FGCCC President Ailan Al-Ailan said that the forum will discuss present and future economic investments and relations between Jordan and GCC countries with the goal of expanding cooperation between the two sides. **SPA Alkhobar**

Healthcare

### Riyadh mental health hospital ranks first

The Eradah Complex for Mental Health in Riyadh has achieved first place among psychiatric hospitals for the second quarter of 2022, according to indicators set by the Saudi Ministry of Health's Wazen Program. Senior specialist Reem Al-Muhammadi, head of the transformation and performance excellence department at the complex, said that the achievement is the result of great efforts on the part of Eradah to improve the work environment and its employees to meet patients' needs and help them understand their conditions. Mental illness is considered to be a widespread concern among young people in the Middle East and North Africa region. A YouGov poll pointed to the existence of a stigma around mental illness in the region, with fewer than half of respondents saying they would seek professional help if they were suffering from a psychological disorder. **SPA Riyadh**



ATTRACTING TALENT

# Misk Foundation and Fashion Commission sign deal to boost Saudi fashion industry

They said it will enhance cooperation in the education and training of emerging designers

Arab News Riyadh

The Misk Foundation's Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nonprofit City in Riyadh and the Saudi Fashion Commission signed an agreement on Monday designed to empower the booming fashion industry in the Kingdom.

The parties said the partnership will enhance cooperation between them to develop education and training programs for young Saudi designers, explore opportunities for the incubation of entrepreneurship, and attract talent and investors to the fashion industry in the country. It also lays the foundation for collaborations to host a variety of fashion-related events and festivals in the city, they added.



David Henry, the CEO of Nonprofit City; and Burak Cakmak, CEO of the Saudi Fashion Commission. The deal will enhance cooperation. Supplied

The commission has also signed with state-of-the-art machinery, technology and expertise to enable the growth of the fashion-design ecosystem. The agreement was signed at the

Ministry of Culture's headquarters in Diriyah by Hamed bin Mohammed Fayez, deputy minister of culture and vice-chairman of the fashion commission board; David Henry, the CEO of Nonprofit City; and Burak Cakmak, CEO of the Saudi Fashion Commission.

Cakmak stressed the significant role the fashion sector plays in the Kingdom's cultural scene and stressed the need for cooperation to develop it, saying: "Fashion is a true reflection of Saudi heritage and identity. The signing of the memorandum of understanding reflects the commitment of the Fashion Commission to advance the growth of the Saudi fashion sector and enhance its contribution to the local economy in line with Vision 2030."

Henry said: "This partnership is an important step toward

## FASTFACTS

- The agreement to boost Saudi fashion sector was signed at the Ministry of Culture's headquarters in Diriyah.
- Nonprofit City, which will be the first development of its kind in the world, is located in the Irqah neighborhood, adjacent to Wadi Hanifa, on a site spanning more than 3.4 square kilometers.
- Developers say it will offer unparalleled retail experiences by providing a platform for local fashion brands to pioneer innovative experiences that are creative, educational, engaging and transformational.

enhancing the Kingdom's fashion industry and aligns with the City's vision to cultivate innovation and creativity in Saudi youth. "We look forward to working together with the Fashion Commission to create opportunities that inspire the next generation of talent and cement the Kingdom's position as a global leader in the industry while showcasing Saudi culture." Nonprofit City, which will be the first development of its kind in the world, is located in the Irqah neighborhood, adjacent to Wadi Hanifa, on a site spanning more than 3.4 square kilometers. Developers say it will offer unparalleled retail experiences by providing a platform for local fashion brands to pioneer innovative experiences that are creative, educational, engaging and transformational.

FUSION CUISINE

# New Saudi organic restaurant in Jeddah puts sustainability and environment at top of menu

Deema Al-Khudair Jeddah

Sustainability and the environment have been placed at the top of the menu at a new Saudi restaurant. Established three months ago by Saudi nationals Mohammed Mosalli and Abdulrah Al-Hadidi, Nawa Patio in Jeddah offers a range of organic international fusion cuisine.

But it is not just the eatery's food that is designed to nourish — customers can also take part in yoga and meditation classes or grow their own vegetables.

Mosalli told Arab News: "It's an experience. We like to call ourselves a conscious patio because we support sustainability practices.

"We offer yoga and meditation classes here, and we invite our customers to come and learn and sow seeds in our planting zone. We ask them to make an intention and plant," he said.

The restaurant's design theme has been inspired by ancient civilizations such as the Sumerians, Thamud, Lihiyan, and Nabataeans.

"Regarding the look and feel of the place, the fit out and furniture are made up of all natural elements, like wood, stones, clay, plants, and so on," Mosalli added.

And the use of plastic is avoided wherever possible. "We use recyclable or compostable materials when it comes to plastic or paper.

"In the kitchen, we have a plan first to educate our staff and our customers, when it comes to sustainability practices, how to manage food waste ... It's about how to order less food and how to manage waste," he said.

A compost machine in the kitchen is used to handle leftover food from customers' plates.

"We give them the option of giving it to us to utilize in the compost machine. And then we can use the end product as soil for plants," he added.

Diners are also encouraged to take home their excess food or give it to local food banks, charity organizations, and humanitarian programs.

Al-Hadidi said: "Nawa Patio is all about impact, and we recruit people who share our values, people who want to contribute to the enrichment of our guests and customers.



The restaurant's design theme has been inspired by ancient civilizations such as the Sumerians, Thamud, Lihiyan, and Nabataeans. Twitter/ @Nawapatio

## HIGHLIGHTS

- It is not just the eatery's food that is designed to nourish — customers can also take part in yoga and meditation classes or grow their own vegetables.
- Diners are also encouraged to take home their excess food or give it to local food banks, charity organizations, and humanitarian programs.
- The restaurant's music playlist has been customized to deliver a comfortable, calming effect.

"That's why even though some of them might not have the experience, we just focus on their attitudes and the values they share with Nawa, and we recruit accordingly."

The restaurant's music playlist has been customized to deliver a comfortable, calming effect.

"People want to go to places that really meet their expectations in terms of the vibe, look, and feel of the place.

"Therefore, we pay very special attention to our music, and ensure we play



Abdulrah Al-Hadidi



music that fits the mood for the morning, afternoon, and evening — we have customized our playlist to mimic the brainwave frequency that best suits people at a particular part or time of the day," Al-Hadidi added.

South African head chef, Abdullah Abrahams, said the restaurant used unwanted offcuts so that no food went to waste.

"We have a dish that we are still working on, which is the sweet potato Wagyu taco. Using the offcuts of sweet potato from a main dish, we try to transform it into a sweet potato dough and then use it as the base or the bread.

"And recently, we have discussed using offcuts for our soup of the day. There is so much that can

be produced from food waste. Mohammed and Abdulrah inspired me and caught my attention with regards to the whole concept of trying to be more sustainable, eco-friendly, and lessen our carbon footprint on Earth.

"We don't have a fryer in the kitchen. The whole restaurant is on the same wavelength of thinking about how to help Earth," he added.

Abrahams noted that it was important to develop a kitchen culture surrounding the need to avoid discarding food.

He said: "I'm big on sustainability with regards to thinking about how not to throw food away, and I look to change the thinking patterns of my chefs too."



News Middle East

SECURITY

Egypt is keen to expand its military cooperation with US

Defense Minister Mohammed Zaki and Gen. Kurilla of US Central Command meet in Cairo

Gobran Mohamed Cairo

Egypt's defense minister has expressed his wish for a closer military partnership with the US during a meeting with the commander of American forces in the Middle East.

Mohammed Zaki met Gen. Michael Kurilla of US Central Command in Cairo to discuss cooperation, weeks after ships from both countries' navies held training exercises in the Mediterranean.

The pair discussed common interests and strategic partnership, with Zaki stressing Egypt's keenness to increase cooperation, according to the Defense Ministry.

Kurilla praised the pivotal role played by Cairo in achieving security, stability and balance in the region, and stressed the depth of relations between the two countries, the ministry added.

The US commander also met Lt. Gen. Osama Askar, the chief

of staff of Egypt's armed forces, to discuss ways to boost cooperation in training.

Gharib Abdel Hafez, a spokesman, said the Egyptian military wanted "to raise the level of training and exchange experiences with the armed forces of brotherly and friendly countries."

Meanwhile, Egypt's foreign minister met the UN's special envoy to the Horn of Africa to discuss regional security issues, including stability in neighboring countries and Ethiopia's damming of the Nile.

Sameh Shoukry met Hanna Tetteh in Cairo to discuss Egypt's commitment to helping Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, maintain security in the Red Sea, and finding an agreement with Addis Ababa over the operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Shoukry said Egypt's contributions to African peacekeeping operations showed that the Horn of Africa was an integral part of its



The Egyptian and American navies recently carried out a joint exercise. Supplied

FASTFACT

Gen. Michael Kurilla of US Central Command praised the pivotal role played by Egypt in achieving security, stability and balance in the region.

own national security.

The foreign minister presented his country's efforts to support Sudan and South Sudan in political, security and economic challenges, as well as Egypt's aid to Somalia.

He also used the meeting to re-

iterate Egypt's wish to reach a comprehensive agreement on the GERD, which he said was a threat to stability and the interests of the people of the region.

The GERD has raised tensions between Ethiopia on the one hand and Egypt and Sudan on the other.

The latter two countries are demanding a legally binding agreement on the filling and operation of the dam, which they fear will reduce their share of the Nile's waters.

African Union-sponsored negotiations on the issue were frozen in April 2021. Egypt has since called on the UN Security Council to press Ethiopia for an agreement.

Shoukry and Tetteh also discussed how to express African interests during November's COP27 climate summit, to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Foreign Ministry said.

Tetteh said that Egypt had extensive experience in supporting peace and stability in Africa, the ministry added.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Bombing accused Abdeslam denounces 'unfair' trial

AFP Brussels

French extremist Salah Abdeslam, already jailed for his role in the 2015 Paris attacks, refused to take the stand on Monday on the first day of the trial for the 2016 suicide bombings in Brussels.

He was one of the nine alleged members of the Daesh cell that launched both the March 2016 suicide bombings in Belgium and the November 2015 attacks in Paris facing terrorism charges in the Belgian capital.

"The way in which you are treating us is unfair," the 32-year-old told the presiding judge, leaving the dock a few minutes after the start of the first hearing in a trial due to last at least eight months.

The Belgian attacks, in which three suicide bombers hit Brussels airport and a crowded underground metro station, killed 32 people and shattered the lives of hundreds of wounded or traumatized survivors.

A 10th suspect, presumed killed while fighting in Syria, will be tried in absentia.

"Here we are like dogs," shouted Tunisian Sofien Ayari, an accomplice in Abdeslam's escape, banging his fist on the wall of the box-like dock constructed in the purpose-built court.

While he had initially expressed the wish to attend the hearing, Ab-

BACKGROUND

The Belgian attacks, in which three suicide bombers hit Brussels airport and a crowded underground metro station in 2016, killed 32 people and shattered the lives of hundreds of wounded or traumatized survivors.

deslam, in a blue and white striped polo shirt, changed his mind when he saw that Mohammed Abrini, Ayari and other co-defendants were being escorted out.

Abdeslam's complaint focused on the conditions in which he and the other defendants appeared in court, in glass-enclosed cubicles that keep them away from their lawyers and limit communication between them.

The trial is the largest ever staged in front of a Belgian jury, with 960 civil plaintiffs represented and the sprawling former headquarters of the NATO military alliance converted into a high-security court complex.

After Monday's preliminary hearing, the court will sit again on Oct. 10 to choose 12 jurors and 24 potential substitutes.

Evidential hearings will begin on Oct. 13 and last at least until June next year.

Many of the victims of the attacks are planning to attend the trial throughout, seeking understanding and closure following the carnage.

"My life was completely destroyed. I lost my friends, gave up my hobby as a pilot," said Philippe Vandenberghe, an airport manager who rushed to assist wounded passengers and now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

CONFLICT

Daesh kills 6 US-backed fighters in eastern Syria

AP Beirut

Daesh killed six US-backed Syrian fighters in eastern Syria saying on Monday that the killing was in retaliation for an ongoing operation inside a sprawling camp housing tens of thousands of family members of the extremist group.

The Daesh-linked Amaq news agency released a video showing the shooting of the six members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces near the eastern village of Ruwaished where they were captured alive and later shot dead late on Sunday.

Despite their defeat in Syria in 2019, when Daesh lost the last sliver of land its fighters once controlled, the extremists' sleeper cells have continued to carry out deadly attacks in Syria and Iraq where they once held large parts of the two countries.

The latest attack occurred in Syria's eastern province of Deir Ezzor bordering Iraq, and where US troops are based at an oil facility known as the Omar Field.

Last week, the US military said SDF fighters arrested dozens of Daesh militants and rescued four women who were being held chained inside tents at the massive Al-Hol camp that houses Daesh families.

The operation that has been ongoing for three weeks is part of an effort to dissolve a major Daesh network at the camp, which is widely seen as a breeding ground for the next generation of Daesh extremists.



Fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces attend a joint military exercise with forces of the US-led coalition against Daesh in the northeastern Hassakeh province. File/AFP

The Al-Hol camp in Syria's northeastern Hassakeh Province, has long been viewed as a growing problem and there have been a number of military operations and raids there to root out Daesh threats.

BACKGROUND

The US military said last week SDF fighters arrested Daesh militants and rescued women who were being held inside the Al-Hol camp.

Some 50,000 Syrians and Iraqis are crowded into tents in the fenced-in camp. Nearly 20,000 of them are children; most of the rest are women, the wives and widows of Daesh fighters. In a separate, heavily guarded section

of the camp known as the annex are an additional 2,000 women from 57 other countries — they are considered the most die-hard IS supporters — along with their children, numbering about 8,000.

HEALTH ALERT

Cholera outbreak: Syria reports two dozen cases, three deaths

AP Damascus

Hospitals in the Syrian capital have been put on alert after more than two dozen cases of cholera and at least three deaths were reported in the war-torn country, health officials said on Monday.

The main cause of the spread appears to be people drinking polluted water as well as watering plants in some areas with unclean water.

Syria's infrastructure has suffered severe damage since the country's

conflict began in March 2011 where residents of some areas have no access to clean water.

The conflict had killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million, many of them living in tent settlements around the country.

The World Health Organization's office in Damascus had no immediate comment.

Pro-regime news agency SANA quoted the head of the Health Ministry in Damascus, Mohammed



A lab technician works on samples to test for cholera in Aleppo. AFP

Samer Shahrouh, as saying that the ministry is coordinating with departments in all provinces to test water as well as some fruits and vegetable. He added that hospitals in government-held parts of the country have the medicines to deal with cholera cases.

In areas controlled by US-backed fighters in northeast Syria, the head of the health department in the region, Jwan Mustafa, reported three deaths and several other cases over the weekend.

Mustafa added in a statement that

most of the cases in areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria are in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor.

He said some were discharged from hospital.

In the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest and once commercial center, the Health Ministry reported 15 cases, including a nine-year-old child who suffered diarrhea and vomiting before getting treatment and being discharged.



OUT OF CONTROL

# Lebanon's economic meltdown worsens as central bank pulls fuel subsidies

Protesters block roads as Lebanese government renews plea for international help to resolve Syrian refugee crisis

Najla Housseini Beirut

**Lebanon's economic meltdown worsened on Monday as protesters blocked roads in Beirut and Tripoli over power cuts and the Banque du Liban's decision to permanently remove fuel subsidies.**

The demonstrations coincided with the Lebanese caretaker government's renewed call for international efforts to help with the Syrian refugee crisis in the country.

In Qasqas and on Corniche Al-Mazraa, in Beirut, crowds used waste bins to block streets in response to the latest cost-of-living blow.

One protester said: "We can no longer bear this situation. We are dying. There is no electricity, no water, no medicine, and death awaits us near hospital doors because we do not have the means to pay for their services."

A lack of vital medicines for cancer patients in Lebanon has recently hit the headlines amid a growing crisis in the country's healthcare sector.

Meanwhile, George Brax, a member of the Syndicate of Gas Station Owners, said: "The central bank completely lifted fuel subsidies on Monday. The gasoline that will be sold at stations is now devoid of any subsidy and will be sold according to the dollar exchange rate on the black market."

The gas gallon (20-liter) increased by 20,000 Lebanese pounds (\$13.18) with the price of 1 gallon hitting 638,000 pounds, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

The Banque du Liban on Monday stopped securing a 20 percent subsidy rate, prompting importers to buy dollars on the black market (at a rate of 36,000 pounds to the dollar) to bring fuel into the country for sale to gas station owners. They had previously been buying dollars according to the central bank's Sayrafa platform at around 7,000 pounds less than the black-market exchange rate.

Also on Monday, Lebanon's interior minister urged representatives of Western embassies in the



The gas gallon (20-liter) increased by 20,000 Lebanese pounds with the price of 1 gallon hitting 638,000 pounds, subject to exchange rate fluctuations. AP

## FASTFACT

**A lack of vital medicines for cancer patients in Lebanon has recently hit the headlines amid a growing crisis in the country's healthcare sector.**

country to "unify efforts and meet the Lebanese authorities' efforts" to resolve the Syrian refugee situation.

"Neglecting the issue of Syrian refugees may lead to an increase in the hosts' resentment against the state and a decline in their trust in it and in the Lebanese justice

system, as well as the social and psychological consequences that this may have on the hosts," the minister said.

In a report published on Monday, the Litani River Authority made allegations about breaches of agreements, especially in the Bekaa region, related to trading, the establishment of farms, the raising of livestock, and the opening of shops selling clothes, food, and electronic devices in Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The report noted that what was happening, "contradicts the definition of a refugee in international agreements, is an exception to the

provisions of Lebanese laws, and is in contrast to the situation of refugees in various countries."

The authority called on the Lebanese interior minister, public and internal security forces, and ministers for social affairs, and labor to take appropriate action.

A plan by Lebanese authorities to resolve overcrowding issues and return 15,000 refugees a month to Syria has been rejected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees agency.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, recently sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

outlining his concerns over the refugee crisis.

Executive director of the Civic Influence Hub, Ziad Al-Sayegh, said: "What the Lebanese authorities are doing regarding the issue of Syrian refugees is based on populism, and stems from intimidation, incitement, and beggary."

The official questioned the reasoning behind not "unifying the statistical figures for the number of refugees and classifying Syrian workers and the Syrian refugees," along with the absence of "inspections for the entry and exit of refugees to Syria."

He also questioned why

"400,000 Syrian refugees had not returned to the Qalamoun, Zabadani, and Al-Qusayr regions," and what he said was Lebanon's "refusal to sign a cooperation protocol with the UNHCR, through which they can determine where the refugees came from, where they can return, and what are the paths of their return."

However, he also blamed the international community's sluggish response to resolving the crisis.

"What is happening may create tensions between the refugees and the hosts and may endanger Lebanon's national security," Al-Sayegh added.

CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

## Ethiopia rivals urged to seize moment for peace

AFP Nairobi

The international community on Monday urged warring sides in Ethiopia to seize the moment for peace after Tigrayan rebels said they were ready for talks led by the African Union to end almost two years of brutal warfare.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic efforts to push for negotiations after fighting flared in northern Ethiopia in late August for the first time in several months, torpedoing a humanitarian truce and cutting off aid deliveries to war-stricken Tigray.

Tigrayan authorities said Sunday they were "prepared to participate in a robust peace process under the auspices of the African Union," after previously rejecting AU mediation and saying they wanted Kenya to lead any talks.

"We are ready to abide by an immediate and mutually agreed cessation of hostilities," Tigray's regional government said in a statement coinciding with Ethiopia's new year.

The government has not formally commented on the Tigrayan stance but has previously said it was ready for unconditional talks "anytime, anywhere," brokered by the AU, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front had until now vehemently opposed the role of the AU's Horn of Africa envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, protesting his "proximity" to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Untold numbers of civilians have been killed since the war erupted in Africa's second most populous country in November 2020, and the fighting has left millions of people across northern Ethiopia in need of emergency aid.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged "the parties to seize this opportunity for peace and to take steps to end the violence definitively and opt for dialogue."

AU Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat also welcomed the development as a "unique



The Ethiopian government has not formally commented on the Tigrayan stance but has previously said it was ready for unconditional talks brokered by the African Union 'anytime, anywhere.' AP

## BACKGROUND

There has been a flurry of diplomatic efforts to push for negotiations after fighting flared in northern Ethiopia in late August for the first time in several months, torpedoing a humanitarian truce and cutting off aid deliveries to war-stricken Tigray.

opportunity toward the restoration of peace" and urged "both parties to urgently work toward an immediate ceasefire, engage in direct talks."

Similar messages were issued by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

"We call on the country's leaders to put Ethiopia on a path that ends the suffering and achieves a lasting peace," Blinken said in a statement.

Ethiopia's international partners were ready to support the peace process, he said, but added: "Eritrea and others should cease fueling the conflict."

## REQUIRED EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

### Qualifications

- University degree in geology (base and precious metals)
- Minimum (5) years' work experience, working on orogenic, epithermal- style gold and base metals exploration in the Arabian- Nubian Shield, and similar environments worldwide.
- Proficiency in English language

### Job Description

1. Review and validate exploration data and previous studies
2. Undertake field activities including, site visits and examination, geologic mapping, surface, trench, and drill hole sampling.
3. Collect and prepare field samples for lab analyses.
4. Recommend and monitor trenching, drilling operations, and perform drill hole logging.
5. Prepare geologic reports as required.
6. Document and retrieve technical data utilizing computer software programs (Excel, MapInfo, ArcGIS).
7. Perform all geologic work according to appropriate quality management standards and field procedures.
8. Coordinate geologic work with the field team including other discipline engineers.

**Location** Jeddah based Saudi mining company.

**Contact details:** HR@memc.sa



COOPERATION

# Philippines' top Muslim separatist leaders agree to unite for peace

Bangsamoro peace process began in 2014 and will culminate in 2025

Elle Aben Manila

The Philippines' top Muslim separatist leaders have agreed to unite for peace in one of Southeast Asia's most conflict-torn regions, in a "historic" meeting that took place 46 years after the movement split.

Bangsamoro, a region covering predominantly Muslim areas of Mindanao, has been undergoing a peace process for nearly a decade since the Philippine government struck a permanent ceasefire deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front following decades of conflict.

An armed breakaway group of the Moro National Liberation Front, the oldest Muslim separatist movement in Mindanao, the MILF separated from its parent organization in 1977 and continued to fight even when the MNLF reached a peace agreement with Manila in the 1990s. Only in 2014 did the MILF's fighters agree to turn over their firearms in ex-



MILF chief Ahod Ebrahim, left, and MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari. Supplied

change for the establishment of a self-administered Bangsamoro.

In 2019, Bangsamoro residents voted for its greater autonomy in a referendum held as part of the peace process. The transition period will culminate in 2025, when Bangsamoro will elect its legislature and executive.

The MNLF's founding chairman, Nur Misuari, and MILF chief Ahod "Al-Haj Murad" Ebrahim sat down for a meeting on Sunday at the former's house in Davao City, where the two agreed to unite for peace and pave the way for reconciliation.

"That is very important because we have seen in the past that he (Misuari) is not really cooperating. I think this is the first time that he himself expressed support," Ebrahim told Arab News on Monday.

"That is very good news, good gesture because I really want us all to work together," he said.

During the meeting, Ebrahim said he told Misuari that the Bangsamoro peace process was the "fruit" of the regional struggle.

"This is not only the struggle of the MILF, but also the struggle of the MNLF," he said.

Though Ebrahim and Misuari have met on several occasions before, including at an event in 2019, Sunday's meeting was the first time since 1977 that both leaders sat down for a discussion, Misuari's daughter Nur-Ainee Tan Lim, who helped arrange the event, told Arab News.

"It was very emotional because it's been 46 years since the top leaders of MNLF and MILF really held a meeting of that magnitude," Lim said.

"They could feel the magnificent moment and the historic moment that was happening right there."

Lim said the meeting was "not something that happened overnight," and had followed years of hard work and persistence, as well as "a lot of convincing" from both sides.

Misuari and Ebrahim agreed "to sustain the gains of peace that they want to carry on," she said.

They also discussed other ways to boost development in Mindanao, with Misuari suggesting the possibility of getting the Organization of Islamic Cooperation involved in those efforts, Lim said.



Russian troops forced to retreat from the Kharkiv region abandoned an armored personnel carrier on the outskirts of the city of Izyum. AFP

TURNING POINT

# Ukraine keeps up momentum, claims it reached Russian border

AP Kharkiv, Ukraine

Ukraine claimed Monday that it took several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the northeastern border, part of a lightning counteroffensive that forced Moscow to withdraw troops from some areas in recent days.

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, Kyiv's sudden momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked outrage in Russia and even some rare public criticism of President Vladimir Putin's war. As Ukrainian flags began to flutter over one city emerging from Russian occupation, a local leader alleged the Kremlin's troops had committed atrocities against civilians there similar to those in other places seized by Moscow.

"In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border

with the Russian Federation," said Oleh Syniehubov, the governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. Over the weekend, the Russian Defense Ministry said troops would be pulled from two areas in that region to regroup in the eastern region of Donetsk.

There were reports of chaos as Russian troops pulled out in haste.

"The Russians were here in the morning. Then at noon, they suddenly started shouting wildly and began to run away, charging off in tanks and armored vehicles," Dmytro Hrushchenko, a resident of recently liberated Zaliznychne, a small town near the eastern frontline, told Sky News of the quick withdrawal.

It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the war — though some analysts suggested it might be while also cautioning there would likely be fighting for months more.

Momentum has switched back and forth before.

Still, the mood was jubilant across the country.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Monday that its troops had liberated more than 20 settlements within the past day. In recent days, Kyiv's forces have captured territory at least the size of Greater London, according to the British Defense Ministry.

In Kharkiv, authorities hailed some return to normalcy, noting that power and water had been restored to about 80 percent of the region's population following Russian attacks on infrastructure that knocked out electricity in many places across Ukraine.

"You are heroes!!!" wrote Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov early in the morning on Telegram, referring to those restoring utilities in Ukraine's second-biggest city. "Thanks to

everyone who did everything possible on this most difficult night for Kharkiv to normalize the life of the city as soon as possible."

The buoyant mood was also captured by a defiant President Volodymyr Zelensky on social media late Sunday.

"Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Zelensky asked. "Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst for us are not as scary and deadly as your 'friendship' and brotherhood."

In the end, he exclaimed: "We will be with gas, lights, water and food ... and WITHOUT you!"

Meanwhile, in Russia, there were some signs of disarray as Russian military bloggers and patriotic commentators chastised the Kremlin for failing to mobilize more forces and take stronger action against Ukraine.

## Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Continuing concerns

### Manila extends state of calamity for virus pandemic

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is extending a state of calamity declared by his predecessor more than two years ago to deal with continuing concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, an official said Monday.

Press secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles also said a previously announced plan to lift the compulsory wearing of masks outdoors will take effect immediately throughout the country, except in crowded areas where people cannot observe social distancing.

The Philippines and Myanmar were the last two countries in Southeast Asia that still required the wearing of masks outdoors, Philippine officials said.

They said they would assess whether indoor mask requirements can be lifted toward the end of the year in areas where an increased number of people receive coronavirus booster shots. AP

Complicated

### Death toll in western China quake rises to 93

The death toll from a major earthquake in western China rose to 93 as the search for survivors continued, authorities said.

A magnitude 6.8 quake hit Sichuan province last week, with much of the damage concentrated in Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Region in the province.

Another 25 people remain missing as of Sunday evening, rescuers said, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The search for survivors and recovery of bodies were complicated by heavy rains and the risks of landslides.

The earthquake also affected Chengdu, the provincial capital, where residents were under strict zero-COVID controls, meaning they were not allowed to leave their buildings. Footage online showed residents banging at metal gates at the front of apartment complexes as they sought to leave their buildings. AP

## The Day's FIGURES

Source: Statista

MARSHALL ISLANDS: POPULATION GROWTH (%)



## What We Are Reading Today

FROM AROUND THE WEB & IN PRINT

### Sinkable

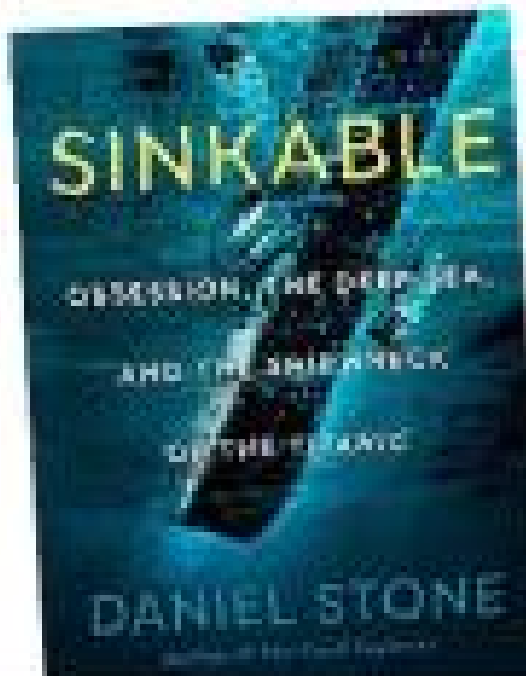
DANIEL STONE

In Sinkable, Daniel Stone spins a fascinating tale of history, science, and obsession, uncovering the untold story of the Titanic not as a ship but as a shipwreck.

He explores generations of eccentrics, like American Charles Smith, whose 1914 recovery plan using a synchronized armada of ships bearing electromagnets;

Jack Grimm, a Texas oil magnate who spent a fortune to find the wreck after failing to find Noah's Ark; and the British Doug Woolley who has claimed, since the 1960s, to be the true owner of the

Titanic wreckage. Brimming with humor, curiosity and wit, Sinkable offers an immensely entertaining romp through the deep sea and the nature of obsession.



Subterranean repository

### Swiss confirm favored nuclear waste storage site

Switzerland confirmed on Monday that its favored location for a 20 billion Swiss franc (\$20.94 billion) underground nuclear waste storage site was an area north of Zurich, close to the border with Germany.

The company behind the project to store the country's nuclear waste for at least the next 200,000 years, the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, proposed the area of northern Laegern for the site, which is due to become operational in 2050.

Following a 14-year evaluation process, the company said the opalinus clay found there provided the greatest geological barrier, the best rock stability and a high degree of flexibility for the subterranean repository compared with the two other sites it considered. Reuters

Maritime peril

### Nine dead in Madagascar river collision

At least nine people died and an unknown number are missing after a passenger boat collided with a cargo vessel on a river in northwest Madagascar, authorities said on Monday.

Children were among the 35 people aboard the 8-meter (26-foot) boat when the collision occurred on Sunday evening on the Loza River near Antsohihy, the River and Maritime Port Agency said.

The passenger boat was sailing from Ambiky when it was rammed by a cargo dhow and sank immediately. Some passengers managed to swim ashore but others are unaccounted for.

Last December a boat sank off Madagascar's northeastern coast, claiming 88 lives, most of them seasonal workers returning home after harvesting cloves. AFP



YOUR DAILY ARABIC PROVERB  
*Experimentation and knowledge enhance  
genius but are not alternatives to it.*  
May Ziadah  
(Lebanese-Palestinian poetess)

# Opinion

## West turns a blind eye as Daesh grows and prospers

BARIA ALAMUDDIN



Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/opinion](http://www.arabnews.com/opinion)

As we pass another 9/11 anniversary, people talk about Daesh as if it was a defeated, spent force. In fact, it is a more globalized movement than at any time in its history.

As recently as 2017, about 80 percent of Daesh's activity was in Iraq and Syria, but now the vast majority of its attacks occur elsewhere — with more than half emanating from Africa and a growing number focused on Afghanistan and its neighboring states.

Both Daesh and Al-Qaeda have become highly active throughout the Sahel region of Africa, including sprawling ungoverned spaces across Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. They have been expanding at a frightening pace, vigorously recruiting along tribal lines and transforming their "jihad" into a brutal onslaught against rival tribes.

Meanwhile, Daesh's West African franchise controls much of the vast Lake Chad region, using these inaccessible territories and Nigeria's immense Sambisa Forest as staging points from which to attack the military. During 2022, this branch has expanded out of northeastern Nigeria to strike at wider parts of this troubled nation, including a prison break in July on the outskirts of the capital, Abuja, in which hundreds of militant inmates were freed.

In Nigeria, Cameroon, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Daesh carries out murderous attacks on an almost daily basis against defenseless Christian villages, slaughtering dozens of people at a time.

Daesh in Afghanistan has been celebrating bloody attacks against Shiite mosques and even a Sikh temple. These strikes partly seek to

embarrass its arch-enemies, the Taliban, who as the de facto authority in Afghanistan are supposedly defending these minority groups. Daesh is gaining strength by recruiting from within disaffected Taliban ranks — those who failed to enjoy the benefits of the group's ascent to power and who believe it has compromised on its radical Islamic principles.

Throughout Afghanistan and Central Asia, Daesh has embarked on the rhetorical offensive, distributing propaganda material in an ever-broader range of languages, seeking to entice brainwashed students in madrassas and seminaries into their ranks, particularly in the Pashto-speaking tribal areas from where the Taliban movement emerged in the first place.

Thanks to US President Joe Biden's unforced errors, Afghanistan is again becoming ground zero for terrorism. Far from keeping promises to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups, the Taliban play attentive host to Al-Qaeda's leadership and seem powerless to avoid being outflanked by the more radical Daesh. Daesh's latest deadly attack on the Russian Embassy and its assassinations of high-profile clerics demonstrate its ability to strike at significant targets, while Al-Qaeda is using its Afghan haven to reconstitute itself worldwide.

Does the world have a response? Beyond sending the occasional drone into Afghanistan and Yemen, the West's "over the horizon" strategy surrenders vast portions of the world to the terrorists. Can leading states and multilateral institutions grapple with only one crisis at a time? As long as terrorists confine themselves to dysfunctional states, they are mostly ignored and left to go about their business unmolested.

The West's counterterrorism strategy is in disarray in West Africa after French forces were compelled to leave Mali. This retreat represented a victory for propaganda and outreach efforts by Moscow and its Wagner mercenaries, who have stepped into the breach, perpetrating horrific massacres in the guise of counterterrorism operations.

Daesh propaganda has been capitalizing on the recent intra-Shiite turmoil in Iraq to argue that Sunnis have nothing to gain from aligning themselves with squabbling Shiite political forces and should instead give refuge to Daesh fighters as a bridgehead for regaining its "caliphate."

Daesh's predecessors were fought to virtual defeat around 2010. That did not stop them surging back to preeminence in 2014, drawing tens of thousands of fighters back into their ranks as a consequence of Iraq's political instability and poisonous sectarian tensions. Daesh now senses that another such opportunity is in the air.

Throughout Syria's vast Badia region, Daesh has sought to remain below the radar while it rebuilds and prepares for fresh onslaughts. Just as Daesh this January staged a daring raid on Ghurayran prison in Hasakah province, a priority will be to attack the huge detention centers in eastern Syria that are holding militants and their families. Daesh propaganda constantly reminds its foot soldiers of their duty to "break the walls" of these prisons and liberate their comrades.

These camps have existed for five years, yet attempts to repatriate the multinational extremist elements have proceeded at a snail's pace. Is the world simply waiting for Daesh to go back on the offensive and

liberate thousands of its fighters?

The Gulf region is a rare success story in combating terrorism, with militant networks broken up and negligible activity in recent years. Sophisticated procedures obstruct the movement of funds, alongside elaborate deradicalization programs. Militant groups in Yemen have also been weakened, with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula reduced to pitifully begging local tribes to obstruct a new army offensive in Abyan province.

The danger now lies in scattered terrorist groups expanding, recruiting and coalescing into region-wide militant empires. Already from Mali, through Niger and Nigeria and into Chad and Cameroon, if Daesh factions were to succeed in linking up with each other, they would have the makings of an immense "caliphate" stretching for about 2,000 km.

Confronting terrorism should be less about killing terrorists than eradicating the vast ungoverned spaces they inevitably occupy. Poverty, hunger, state failure, desertification and intercommunal conflicts are the fertile raw materials these parasites feed upon. We may laugh at Donald Trump's ludicrous claim to have "eradicated" Daesh, but Biden's counterterrorism policies inspire little more confidence.

These deranged terrorist death cults exploit religion for the purpose of killing thousands of innocent people, triggering conflicts and miring entire regions of the world in instability.

Experience shows us that terrorism can be defeated, but as long as the world's wealthiest states fail in their duty to combat immense global inequalities and prevent the disintegration of sovereign states, we will never be rid of this globalized scourge.

As long as terrorists confine themselves to dysfunctional states, they are mostly ignored and left to go about their business unmolested



Saudi Arabia can assist Iraq economically in a number of ways and offer many valuable investments

## Declining Iran-Iraq trade offers opportunities for others

DR. MOHAMMED AL-SULAMI



Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami is president of the International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasaneh).  
Twitter: @mohalsulami

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/opinion](http://www.arabnews.com/opinion)

The past five months have seen a steady decline in Iranian exports to Iraq, according to Iranian sources. These insiders have warned Tehran of the grave potential consequences of this downturn, particularly its negative impact on the country's current dominance of the Iraqi market and the possibility of its products losing their competitive edge over others.

Here, we will examine the reasons behind this decline and the likelihood of Saudi and other foreign investors entering the Iraqi market to reduce Iran's troubling domination.

While Iran certainly has a significant economic presence in Iraq, Tehran is working to address a growing number of challenges in selling its products, including their popularity, technical reliability and competitiveness. Superior Chinese and Turkish products often compete with Iranian goods, as well as those from Arab and European countries. In the Iraqi market, Iran is also facing growing resentment, especially among young Iraqis who reject its meddling in the country's internal affairs, and people are turning away from its products.

Other Iranian challenges were mentioned by Jahanbakhsh Sanjabi Shirazi, secretary-general of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, including a reliance on unorganized

cross-border trade, a lack of compliance with global product standards and issues with transportation, storage, logistics, money transfers, product pricing and quality.

All the aforementioned challenges represent opportunities for Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, to assist Baghdad, allowing it to escape Iranian control. In the past two years, Saudi Arabia has displayed a genuine desire to help Iraq, through official visits, the signing of multibillion-dollar agreements and by reopening two land crossings that had been shut for more than three decades. In addition to this growing closeness, the two countries also concluded an important agreement on electricity interconnectivity that will help to mitigate the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by continuous power outages, while also depriving Iran of an important tool to blackmail Iraq.

While Saudi Arabia's worldwide foreign direct investments for the first quarter of 2022 surpassed \$8580 billion (\$154 billion), Saudi investments in Iraq barely reached \$82 billion. The current investment level in Iraq is quite low compared to other countries. For instance, Saudi investments in Egypt stand at about \$30 billion.

It must be remembered, however, that Saudi Arabia is facing major challenges and stiff resistance from known and hostile actors who are working against the interests of Iraq

both domestically and abroad. Despite these challenges, there are growing Iraqi calls for Saudi Arabia to invest in the fields of energy, water desalination and food, as well as in other fields.

Pro-Iranian proxy actors that hinder any foreign investment in Iraq apart from Iran's have no hesitation in resorting to killings, as seen with the assassination of the director of South Korea's Daewoo Engineering & Construction firm, which was engaged in developing Iraq's Al-Faw port, in October 2020.

Saudi Arabia can assist Iraq economically in a number of ways and offer many valuable investments. For example, the Kingdom can help Iraq's major energy sectors, with Riyadh having extensive experience and an abundance of knowledge in the fields of oil and gas, with these sectors needing major state investment.

Saudi Arabia's private sector also has a wealth of experience to call upon, with Saudi businessmen having a strong presence outside the Kingdom in a variety of different economic fields. In order to conduct business efficiently and effectively for both sides, the Saudi private sector will need guarantees and a suitable business environment. Saudi companies are thriving regionally and globally due to the presence of such environments in countries across the Middle East, as well as in Eastern

Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Egypt, for example, is one of the largest Arab countries in terms of Saudi investment, with more than 6,800 companies from the Kingdom operating there, with overall investments exceeding \$30 billion in industries as diverse as perfume, dairy, poultry, fodder, sugar, seeds, minerals, engineering and food production. These are in addition to Saudi service providers in areas such as banking, insurance, finance, leasing, transportation and tourism.

It is clear, therefore, that the Saudi workforce, across both the public and private sectors, is equipped with a vast array of expertise, with the products they manufacture complying with international quality and trading standards. Saudi firms are more than capable of helping to build and advance the Iraqi economy, have a positive presence in the Iraqi market, operate and compete freely, and provide quality products to Iraqis.

All of this, however, remains contingent on providing a safe and appropriate business environment. Achieving this positive environment and laying the groundwork for Iraq's advancement will require real Iraqi national unity, the removal of excessive red tape and the elimination of networks of corruption that serve only malign foreign agendas, as Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi has noted.



## Opinion

# Italy flirting with fascism again

CHRIS DOYLE

There is a curious old bylaw that stipulates that everyone has to smile all the time in Milan. As lovely a city as Italy's second-largest undoubtedly is, the smiles do occasionally

dry up, just as the River Po is doing right now. The cost-of-living crisis is testing the happiness of all but the most optimistic and this may prove even harder for many should the extreme right take power following the elections on Sept. 25.

As it stands, the neo-fascist leader of the Brothers of Italy looks on course to succeed Mario Draghi. The 10-year-old party only got 4.3 percent of votes in the last elections in 2018, but is currently polling at about 25 percent, meaning it will likely become the largest party in parliament. Giorgia Meloni would become the country's first female prime minister — a big deal in a country renowned for its machismo. That said, many leading female Italians are far from impressed with her record on women's rights.

Meloni and her "Brothers" look set to lead a far-right coalition that could include Matteo Salvini's Northern League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia. Yet Meloni stands out. She is blunt and outspoken, capable for the moment of reaching out to Italy's disaffected. Perhaps one of her biggest advantages is that most of her rivals have been tested and found wanting. She is the one who has yet to have a chance in office.

Meloni is unashamedly far-right and will be divisive. In the past, as a teenager, she praised Benito Mussolini, the fascist dictator.

Much unites the potential far-right coalition partners. They all have harsh anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim stances. It is foreigners who get blamed for taking Italian jobs and for the

rising crime rates. Meloni supports using the navy to turn back migrants.

Bashing Brussels is another unifying factor. Nothing will please their euroskeptic bases more than tearing

into interference from the EU. It is unlikely but conceivable that a Meloni-led coalition could garner sufficient seats to change the constitution and give supremacy to Italian law over EU legislation. As the bloc's third-largest economy, the shockwaves would be massive.

Meloni will face limitations should she win. Italy is heavily indebted. She will have to convince international institutions that the Italian economy will flourish under her stewardship, or else the country will be hit hard with increased costs of borrowing. She and her coalition partners may have to dampen their vitriolic euroskepticism and be more accommodating to Brussels.

Further afield, responsible leaders should take stock. The land where fascism was founded and flourished, the country of Mussolini, is heavily flirting with fascism once more. A victory for Meloni risks becoming a free-for-all for all the worst xenophobic, racist, Islamophobic tendencies in Italy, while also inspiring others elsewhere.

This divisive, hate-fueled politics bodes ill for Italy's future and also elsewhere. Democracy is under serious threat. For many in Milan, not least those from immigrant backgrounds, for non-white Italians, for anyone of a non-right-wing tendency, it may be hard to keep smiling. La dolce vita may be getting a little bitter.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, in London.  
**Twitter:** @CDoylech

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/opinion](http://www.arabnews.com/opinion)

# Palestinians still resisting 40 years on from Sabra and Shatila

RAMZY BAROUD

Sept. 16 marks the 40th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, the killing of about 3,000 Palestinians by Lebanon's Phalangist militias operating under the command of the Israeli army.

Four decades have passed, yet no measure of justice has been received by the survivors of the massacre. Many of them have died and others are aging while they still carry the scars of physical and psychological wounds. They hope that, perhaps, within their lifetime, they will see their executioners put behind bars.

However, many of the Israeli and Phalange commanders who ordered the invasion of Lebanon or orchestrated or carried out the heinous massacres in the two Palestinian refugee camps in 1982 have already died. Ariel Sharon, who was implicated by the official Israeli Kahan Commission a year later for his "indirect responsibility" for the grisly mass killing and rapes, later became Israel's prime minister.

Even prior to the Sabra and Shatila massacre, Sharon's name was affiliated with mass murders and large-scale destruction. It was in the so-called Operation Shoshana, in the Palestinian West Bank village of Qibya in 1953, that Sharon earned his reputation. Following the Israeli occupation of Gaza in 1967, the Israeli general became known as "The Bulldozer" and, following Sabra and Shatila, "The Butcher."

The Israeli prime minister at the time, Menachem Begin, also died having exhibited no remorse for the deaths of more than 17,000 Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. His nonchalant response to the killings in the West Beirut refugee camps epitomizes Israel's attitude toward all the mass killings and massacres carried out against Palestinians in the last 75 years. "Goyim kill goyim, and they blame the Jews," he said.

Testimonies from those who arrived at the refugee camps after the days of slaughter depict a reality that requires deep reflection, not only among Palestinians, Arabs and especially Israelis, but humanity as a whole.

The Lebanese and Palestinian losses in the Israeli war were devastating in terms of numbers. However, the war also changed Lebanon forever and, following the forced exile of thousands of Palestinian men, along with the entire Palestinian Liberation Organization leadership, the Palestinian communities in Lebanon were left politically



Ramzy Baroud has been writing about the Middle East for more than 20 years. He is an internationally syndicated columnist, a media consultant, an author of several books, and the founder of [PalestineChronicle.com](http://PalestineChronicle.com).  
**Twitter:** @RamzyBaroud

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/opinion](http://www.arabnews.com/opinion)

# King Charles likely to be a friend of the Middle East

DR. AZEEM IBRAHIM

As the longest-serving heir to the throne in British history, King Charles III had a great deal of time to set out his thoughts. He wrote books and made speeches on a number of subjects and they give a real insight into his mind.

Some of the things he discussed were ordinary and domestic. But on one particular subject, the king's views are relevant to the entire Muslim world — not least because they are unusual among British sovereigns. King Charles is, and has long been, a declared friend of Muslims and Islam.

This is a long-standing interest and is motivated by Charles's fascination with other cultures and respect for difference. He indicated — some time ago — that, when crowned, he could take an alternative title to the one assumed by English and later British monarchs. They were each a "Defender of the Faith," meaning Anglican Christianity, which is the state religion of Britain. Instead, Charles has said he might be called a "defender of faith" in abstract, or perhaps "faiths," meaning all religions and denominations.

This is a significant point. It means that, rather than being a pro forma monarch expected to carry out duties as supreme head of the Anglican Church, Charles will see himself as a champion of other religions and identities. What this says in terms of sentiment and sympathy is notable.

One episode from more than 15 years ago explains Charles's fascination and sympathy. He was long a patron of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. When the Prince of Wales, as he was then, visited the center in 2005, Prof. Mohammed Talib spoke to him. "His Royal Highness talked about bridge-building between Islam and the West, the dialogue between the two cultures. He has a deep understanding of Islamic art and architecture,"



Dr. Azeem Ibrahim is the director of special initiatives at the Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy in Washington D.C. and author of "The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Genocide" (Hurst, 2017).  
**Twitter:** @AzeemIbrahim

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/opinion](http://www.arabnews.com/opinion)

vulnerable, socially disadvantaged and economically isolated.

The story of Sabra and Shatila is not simply a dark chapter in a bygone era, but is an ongoing moral crisis that continues to define Israel's relationship with Palestinians, to highlight the demographic and political trap in which numerous Palestinian communities in the Middle East live, and to accentuate the hypocrisy of the Western-dominated international community. The latter seems to care for some victims, but not others.

In the case of the Palestinians, the victims are often depicted by Western governments and media as the aggressors. Even during that horrific Israeli war on Lebanon 40 years ago, some Western leaders repeated the tired mantra: "Israel has the right to defend itself." It is this unwavering support of Israel that has made the Israeli occupation, apartheid and siege of the West Bank and Gaza politically possible and financially sustainable — in fact, profitable.

Would Israel have been able to invade and massacre at will if it were not for US-Western military, financial and political backing? The answer is no. Those who are in doubt about such a conclusion need only consider the attempt, in 2002, by the survivors of the Lebanon refugee camps massacre to hold Sharon accountable. They took their case to Belgium, taking advantage of a Belgian law that allowed for the prosecution of alleged international war criminals. After much haggling, many delays and intense pressure from the US government, the Belgian court eventually dropped the case altogether. Ultimately, Brussels changed its own laws to ensure that such a diplomatic crisis with Washington and Tel Aviv would not be repeated.

For Palestinians, however, the case will never be dropped. In her essay, "Avenging Sabra and Shatila," Kifah Sobhi Afifi wrote: "I saw the piles of the dead bodies all around. Children, women and men, mutilated or groaning in pain as they were dying. Bullets were flying everywhere. People were falling all around me. I saw a father using his body to protect his children but they were all shot and killed anyway."

Though Israeli massacres are meant to bring an end to Palestinian resistance, instead they unwittingly fuel it. While Israel continues to act with impunity, Palestinians continue to resist. This is not just the lesson of Sabra and Shatila, but also the bigger lesson of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

**srmq**

Saudi Research & Media Group

Established in 1987 by  
Prince Ahmad bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz

**ARAB NEWS**

is a daily international newspaper published by the  
SAUDI RESEARCH & PUBLISHING COMPANY

Founded in 1975 by  
Hisham & Muhammad Ali Hafiz

Editor-in-Chief  
Faisal J. Abbas

ARAB NEWS WELCOMES FEEDBACK FROM READERS

Letters sent from within the Kingdom should include the writer's name, address, phone and ID numbers. E-mails from readers abroad should include a name and city. Letters should be mailed to P.O. Box 478, Riyadh 11411, Saudi Arabia.  
**Tel:** +966112128000 • **Fax:** +966114429555 • **E-mail:** [general@arabnews.com](mailto:general@arabnews.com)

**EDITORIAL:** [general@arabnews.com](mailto:general@arabnews.com) **MARKETING:** [marketing@arabnews.com](mailto:marketing@arabnews.com)

**TOLL FREE NUMBER:** 8002440078

**PRINTED AT:** AL-MADINA PRINTING AND PUBLICATION CO., JEDDAH

Bahrain 200 Fils; Iran 200 R; Egypt LE 3; India 12 Rs; Indonesia 2000 R; Japan 250 Y; Jordan 200 Fils; Kuwait 200 Fils; Lebanon 1000 L; Morocco 2 D; Oman 200 P; Pakistan 15 Rs; Philippines 25 P; Qatar 2 QR; Singapore \$3; Syria 20 L; Thailand 40 BHT; UAE 2 AED; UK 50 P; US \$1.50; Republic of Yemen R 50; Sudan 20 P.

**SRPC AND AFFILIATED AGENCIES**  
**JEDDAH:** Tel: 966-121283-6200, Fax: 966-121283-6226, **RIYADH:** Tel: 966-1622-8000, Fax: 966-1642-6094, **DAMMAM:** Tel: 966-131635-3636, Fax: 966-131634-0489,  
**ABU DHABI:** Tel: 971-2661-0888, Fax: 971-2661-7585, **CAIRO:** Tel: 202-3748-2775, 202-3748-2998, 202-3338-8854, Fax: 202-3748-2854, 202-3748-2885;  
**MOROCCO:** Tel: 02-637283-618, Fax: 02-637283-618  
**JORDAN:** Tel: 962-6553-7101, 962-6551-7102, 962-6553-9408, Fax: 962-6553-7103  
**LONDON:** Tel: 44-207831-8181, Fax: 44-207831-2310.

**FOR ADVERTISING — SAUDI MEDIA COMPANY**  
**KSA:** +966 820033777 UAE: +971 45864155

**Email:** [sales@saudimedia.sa](mailto:sales@saudimedia.sa) **Web:** <https://saudimedia.co/>

**DISTRIBUTION AGENT**  
**TOLL FREE:** 9661600-244-0070. **Head Office (Riyadh):** P.O. Box 6206, Riyadh 11555, Tel: 966-114418933, Fax: 966-162121774, E-mail: [info@saudi-distribution.com](mailto:info@saudi-distribution.com). **Western Region:** Tel: 966-12653-0909, **Eastern Region:** Tel: 966-13647-0569, **Southern Region:** Tel: 966-17121-0683, **Northern Region:** Tel: 966-16324-3070, **Dubai:** Tel: 971-4391-8503, Fax: 971-4391-8334, **Abu Dhabi:** Tel: 971-2673-3050, Fax: 971-2673-3384, **Kuwait:** Tel: 9651483-4523, Fax: 9651483-4715  
**Manama:** Tel: 973-17687770

**SUBSCRIPTION**

**Head Office (Riyadh):** P.O. Box 22304, Riyadh 11523, Tel: 966-112128000, Fax: 966-114418933, Fax: 966-164429555, **TOLL FREE:** 8002440078.  
**Email:** [info@arabmediaco.com](mailto:info@arabmediaco.com), **Web:** [www.arabmediaco.com](http://www.arabmediaco.com).

**PRINTING CENTER**

**Riyadh:** P.O. Box 30202, Riyadh 11523, Tel: 966-112128000, Fax: 966-112884800,  
**Jeddah:** P.O. Box 1634, Jeddah 21441, Tel: 966-12638-6060, Fax: 966-12638-4086,  
**Dammam:** Tel/Fax: 966-131647-3660, Email: [mpo@srmq-co.com](mailto:mpo@srmq-co.com).

**ARAB NEWS**

Disclaimer  
Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Arab News' point of view.



Saudi Arabia's economy is changing rapidly with the implementation of Vision 2030.

**Renee McGowan**  
Mercer's president for Asia, the Middle East, and Africa



# Business



For investment funds, Saudi public funds' assets dropped 29 percent in value during the second quarter this year compared to 2021, as they invested less in money markets. File

SECOND QUARTER

## Saudi markets continue to ride high as listed firms rise to 246

Foreign investor ownership in Kingdom's stock market surged to \$76 billion by the end of Q2

**Salma Wael Riyadh**

**Saudi Arabia's stock market has been witnessing a wave of new listings since the beginning of the year reaching 246 by the end of the second quarter of 2022.**

Listed firms on the main index, Tadawul All Share Index, rose 6 percent to 215, while the remaining 31 were on the parallel Nomu market, revealed a report by the Capital Market Authority.

Nomu, which offers lighter listing requirements, saw a 343 percent surge in the number of companies joining the index in the three-month period compared to the last year.

The report highlighted that approvals for new offers on Tadawul reached 13 during the quarter.

In terms of index performance, TASI recorded an increase of 5 percent on the year to end the quarter at 11,523.25 points.

The total number of individuals

with ownership in the Saudi stock market was 5.67 million at the end of the three-month period, while the number of portfolios held rose to 10.8 million from 10.1 million in the prior quarter.

Qualified foreign investor ownership alone surged to SR284 billion (\$76 billion) in the same period, up 31 percent from SR216 billion a year earlier.

When it comes to total foreign investment by swap holders, foreign residents, QFI, foreign diversified portfolio managers, and foreign strategic investors, the ownership rose to SR354 billion at the end of the second quarter from SR276 billion a year ago.

Overall institutional investors held 96.6 percent of the total ownership in the market of SR11.4 trillion, while the remaining 3.34 percent belonged to non-institutional investors at the end of the three-month period.

For investment funds, Saudi public funds' assets dropped 29 percent in value during the second

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA'S STOCK MARKETS (Q2 2022 vs. Q2 2021)



### INVESTMENT FUNDS FACTS AND FIGURES (Q2 2022 vs. Q2 2021)



quarter this year compared to 2021, as they invested less in money markets.

Assets' value decreased to SR193 billion from SR242 billion in the corresponding period in 2021.

The decrease was mainly driven by a decline in the value invested by funds in money market instruments to SR101 billion, holding the highest share of funds' assets.

The value of assets in this investment category dropped 35 percent from SR155 billion in the prior-year period, despite the addition of a new money market fund this year.

Equities of public funds slightly fell in value to SR24 billion from SR25 billion year-on-year, while debt instruments went up to SR26.9 billion from SR25.6 billion.

The total value captures investment across different asset classes including equities, debt, money market instruments, real estate, exchange-traded funds, funds of funds, real estate investment trusts, endowments, multi-asset, and others.

LICENSE

## Mercer obtains approval to operate in Kingdom

**Fahad Abuljadayel**  
**Nour El Shaerl Riyadh**

Global asset management firm Mercer has received its advisory investment license from the Capital Market Authority to operate in Saudi Arabia.

During the Euromoney Saudi Arabia Conference held in Riyadh last week, Renee McGowan, Mercer's president for Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, told Arab News that the company intends to rapidly expand its team in the Kingdom during the next six weeks.

McGowan said that the company is already known in the region for its operations in the human resources space, and is now planning to expand its investment advice arm in Saudi Arabia.

The official said the company, which has been operating in Riyadh for a decade, has grown staff numbers tenfold, and is planning to invest more in local talent by implementing intern, graduate, and talent development programs.

### FASTFACT

The company is planning to support Saudi Arabia's growth with its advisory license to provide advice on investments without placing any assets.

"We're the investment adviser on \$13 trillion of assets globally, and we have our own investment, implemented solutions where we manage \$400 billion of assets as well. Our plan now is to obviously be able to provide a lot more investment advice to clients in the Kingdom," McGowan told Arab News. She also added that Saudi Arabia's economy is changing rapidly with the implementation of Vision 2030, and that the Kingdom is a unique market.

"Saudi Arabia has done a very good job of continuing to run a high-growth economy, and I think the gross domestic product will actually be the highest in the next 10 years," she said.

McGowan also stated that the world is still not familiar with the activity currently happening in Saudi Arabia, and with Vision 2030 in place, she believes that the Kingdom is going through profound economic and social transformation.

## Meaningful journeys need experiences to fill your soul

ARADHANA KHOWALA

**A**mid shifting generational demands, economic crises, a surge of new technologies and social media influencers teaching us how to travel, tourism destinations are drastically transforming.

Today the experience economy, which is the sale of memorable experiences to customers, is at the core of expanding the ways travelers can engage with people, places and cultures.

The next generation of travelers are interested, curious and want to do more than see sites. Earlier, destinations had a simple formula: Working alongside big hotel chains and tour operators to create the holiday experience. But today, those spots that provide only another place to sleep will find it increasingly harder to put heads in those beds.

Tourism infrastructure is paramount, but if destinations want to stay on top of the minds of the next generation of travelers, they need

to be experienceable, innovative, sustainable, transformative, fun, authentic and resilient. Improved product, authentic food and beverage positioning, wellness programming, cultural sampling and adventure activities that add to the sense of place are becoming the norm.

Millennials, the generation that travels the most, make up more than 50 percent of all hotel guests worldwide and are willing to spend \$1.4 trillion on travel each year. Whether the focus is surfing, yoga, longevity and anti-aging experience or appreciating nature, farm-to-table dining, excursions should be designed to allow one to see the destination like a local.

A wholesome experience makes us significantly happier and has much longer positive effects on our mental health and well-being. According to the Happiness Research Institute, 23 percent of people's memories were of novel or extraordinary experiences.

Examples that get the most tourist dollars



Aradhana Khowala is a global authority on the luxury travel and tourism industries having worked across 75 countries. She is currently the chair of the global advisory board of The Red Sea Development Company.

For full version, log on to [www.arabnews.com/economy](http://www.arabnews.com/economy)

on popular platforms such as Airbnb and TripAdvisor vary from white water rafting at the Balsa River in Costa Rica to exploring Hawaii's largest limestone cave during a tour of Makena Cave Reserve, among others.

Likewise, the new destinations in Saudi Arabia will need a curated inventory of unique, authentic experiences to capture the imagination of consumers and entice them to visit the Kingdom that too now.

Experiences are the critical link that converts the desire into immediate action. Fortunate travelers seeking to explore the authentic diversity and essence of the Kingdom will have much to experience, from the natural environment to the authentic local culture. A quick look at the world's top-ranked countries for travel experiences reveals that the front runners, rated by the travelers, are Costa Rica, New Zealand and Vietnam.

The secret sauce? It is about putting travelers at the heart of nature and keeping the

adventure spirit alive throughout the entire traveler's journey.

Authenticity and prioritizing the human element are among the biggest differentiating factors in crafting long-lasting memories. In addition, such factors are essential for connecting and inspiring tourists to share their adventures with their families and friends and eventually return.

They want carefully curated trips tailored to their specific likes and interests, and destinations can play a crucial role in guiding people toward their desired outcomes and using this behavior change to advance tourism as a force for good.

Destinations in the Kingdom must invest in product development of unique and diverse experiences catering to different target groups and generations to lead the fight for tourists in the future. This is the golden opportunity of the century for Saudi tourism to fulfill its regenerative and transformative potential.



# KSA's desalination energy use down thanks to new tech: ACWA Power CEO

Kingdom is a prime investment destination due to 'elements of overcoming the power challenges and capital low cost'

Dana Abdelaziz, Jana Salloum Riyadh

**Massive technological developments spearheaded in Saudi Arabia have driven down the amount of energy needed to desalinate water, according to the CEO of ACWA Power.**

Speaking at the Future of Desalination International Conference in Riyadh on Monday, Paddy Padmanathan said there was still further to go to reduce the energy consumption in the sector, but added the whole process is now more "reliable."

He also said the Kingdom is a prime investment destination for the water economy "due to the elements of overcoming the power challenges and capital low cost" compared to other countries in the region.

Reflecting on the change in production, Padmanathan said: "The business model was created here, and with massive technological advancement — really significant technological advancements — we have reduced the cost of the amount of energy that went into the desalination process, making it much much more reliable."

He added: "We have now got to a stage where (we have) the efficiencies. (There is) much more room to go, but, we come from — just taking global numbers — 15+ kilowatt energy consumption down to 2.9, 2.8, just in a matter of decade, all being from thermal process to membrane process."

Padmanathan said the price of energy is one of the reasons why desalination has proved expensive, but the reduction in consumption is not the only aspect that could see the cost fall.

"I don't want to use this word but I'm going to use it: Energy has got 'democratized,' all of the sudden sunshine is pretty much everywhere," he said, referring to the potential of solar power.

Hosted by Saudi Arabia from



ACWA Power CEO Paddy Padmanathan said there was still further to go to reduce the energy consumption in the sector. Supplied

Sept. 11-13 in Riyadh, the Future of Desalination International Conference aims to discuss opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship in the desalination sector.

Policy makers, developers, contractors, researchers and innovators will attend to discuss the sector's future.

Saudi Arabia is leading the way with sustainable, energy-efficient desalination projects while maintaining its position as a

## FASTFACT

**2.2bn**

Water desalination in the Kingdom has doubled over the past decade to reach 2.2 billion cubic meters in 2021, up from 1.1 billion cubic meters per year in 2010.

world leader in desalinated water production.

Water desalination in the Kingdom has doubled over the past decade to reach 2.2 billion cubic meters in 2021, up from 1.1 billion cubic meters per year in 2010, thanks to a major overhaul of some existing plants and the introduction of new technologies.

The process of water desalination in the Kingdom dates back

to the early 1900s, when Jeddah became the first city to install two privately owned distillation condensers to meet the city's rising demand.

Yanbu and Jazan, the other coastal cities of the Kingdom, followed the same approach of developing their private seawater distillation condensers until the entire industry was nationalized and regulated under the Ministry of

Environment, Water and Agriculture in 1965.

Assuming the current population growth rates hold through the next 10-15 years, the Kingdom may require a desalinated water capacity of up to 4.5 billion cubic meters per year in 2040, a research report released in 2014 suggested. In effect, the output will be required to double again from the 2021 production level.

## PRODUCTION

### Kingdom produces 20% of global desalinated water, official says

Dana Yasser Abdelaziz  
Jana Salloum Riyadh

Saudi Arabia produces around 20 percent of the world's desalinated water, with 9 million cubic meters produced per day, the deputy minister of environment, water and agriculture said.

While speaking at the Future of Desalination International Conference in Riyadh on Monday, Mansour Al-Mushaiti added that Saudi Arabia has desalinated seawater since the 1950s and is "the leading desalinated water producer in the world."

He noted that the Kingdom now has reliable access to drinking water, of which 60 percent is desalinated.

"The sustained development of our desalinated industry has provided this part (of the world) a constant technological innovation — from thermal to reverse osmosis, from ongoing enhancement in membrane technology to using renewable energy to run desalination plants."

Speaking of the

government's efforts in this regard, he said in 2002 the Kingdom created the Independent Water Power Producers and an official framework for private sector participation.

Saudi Arabia has also taken major steps toward improving the desalination sector's efficiency,

**The Kingdom now has reliable access to drinking water, of which 60 percent is desalinated.**

Mansour Al-Mushaiti



reliability and sustainability.

Sharing the history and some of Saudi Arabia's achievements in this sector, the deputy minister revealed that the Kingdom launched the initiative to desalinate water using solar energy in 2009.

"In 2018, we successfully completed the world's first large-scale water desalination plant powered by solar energy," he said, adding that today they are working on other solutions, including the membrane technology.

Saudi Arabia launched Shuaibah Independent Water & Power Project, which is the first IWPP in the Kingdom to utilize the Flue Gas Desulphurization technology along with a low NOx burner and Electrostatic Precipitator. This is in full compliance with the World Bank emission requirement.

During the conference, the Kingdom's Saline Water Conversion Corp. signed a cooperation agreement with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to localize and enhance cooperation in the desalination industry.

## ADVANCEMENT

### ACWA Power signs deal to use new technology in desalination

Arab News Riyadh

The Public Investment Fund-owned ACWA Power on Monday signed an industrial development agreement with Water Global Access, a research and technology development firm, to integrate hydraulic injection desalination, HID, technology at scale.

The deal was signed on the sidelines of the Future of Desalination International Conference in Riyadh.

The agreement comes six months after both companies signed a collaboration agreement to develop a roadmap for HID across ACWA Power's projects, said a press release.

The agreement will involve the implementation of a pilot project that includes HID in the Gulf Cooperation Council region, following research that has demonstrated that the technology has the potential to break the 2 kWhr barrier of energy consumption to produce 1 cubic meter of water from seawater.

"With continued

## HIGHLIGHTS

● ACWA Power signed an industrial development agreement with Water Global Access, a research and technology development firm.

● The deal was signed on the sidelines of the Future of Desalination International Conference in Riyadh.

● The deal was signed on the sidelines of the Future of Desalination International Conference in Riyadh.

industrialization and demographic growth, water consumption across the world continues to rise at a rapid rate requiring urgent solutions. The potential emanating from water production utilizing cost effective, low carbon-intensive technologies is truly exponential and we are proud to pilot the ground-breaking HID technology, which is going to be a giant step forward in revolutionizing the desalination industry," said Paddy Padmanathan, vice

chairman and CEO of ACWA Power.

Energy consumption in desalination plants is also referred to as the total specific energy consumption.

"With its low energy footprint, HID technology has the potential to lower operational costs for our desalination business, which we hope will lead to lower tariffs in the long term. For governments, this means that it is more affordable to produce water. For investors, this could mean higher profits per facility. And for communities, it means that they are getting usable water with the least impact on the environment," he added.

"Technical readiness tests confirm that the capacity of HID to break the 2kWh/m3 seawater desalination threshold, opening a new paradigm in the industry's efficiency levels," WGA CEO Eusebi Nomen.

"We also welcome ACWA Power's commitment in this technology, which further cements their position as a global leader in high-impact water innovation," he added.



Business News



A recent report from Boston Consulting Group expected an average annual compounded growth rate of 22 percent for Saudi gaming consumption. File

PLANS

Saudi gaming firm Spoilz eyes IPO in coming years

Kingdom's esports industry is projected to reach \$6.8 billion by 2030

Wafaa Wael Riyadh

**Spoilz Games, a Riyadh-based video games publisher, is considering listing on the Saudi market in the next three to five years, its CEO told Arab News.**

Talking about the attractiveness of the Saudi stock market for tech companies, Musab Al-Malki said it was "too early to think about listing the company."

"We expect to reach around SR826 million (\$220 million) in investments in the next 3-5 years," he added.

Al-Malki said the growth rate of the company will be around 30 times by 2023 due to huge market demand. The growth pace, he said, "will help us to take quick steps in the coming period."

Spoilz has grown exponentially since its launch, Al-Malki said, adding that "We are proud of our

team growth by 120 percent. We are working with local and global partners, who specialize in talent acquisition, and user acquisition as well."

He highlighted the growth of the Saudi non-oil sector with a particular reference to the Kingdom's fast-growing gaming industry. "I believe revenues from the gaming industry were valued at SR6.3 billion in 2021, it is predicted to reach SR18.7 billion by 2025."

"This makes the Middle East and North African region a key growth area for the global video games industry. Take into consideration, 60 percent of MENA revenues are derived from the Saudi market," he added.

"At Spoilz, we have developed a strategy to build games that focus mainly on the local market, to create jobs, and assisting other companies or developers to expand and make more games to leverage this high spending growth from local users," the CEO added.

Al-Malki also spoke about the support his company received from STC's InspireU program.

"They are a great supporter for us, they connect us with the right type of local and interna-

FASTFACTS

● **Founded in 2020, Spoilz Games won two prizes in a game jam, organized by Nine66, a subsidiary of PIF-backed Savvy Games Group.**

● **The Riyadh-based video games publisher will launch a new game based on the history of the Arabian peninsula.**

tional advisers, support us with government entity requirements, and provide Spoilz with the right exposure."

InspireU is an accelerator program launched by Saudi Telecom Co. to support startups

and entrepreneurship in the region. Since its inception in 2015, it has helped incubate 75 emerging projects, including Spoilz.

Talking about the launch of a new game, Al-Malki said: "It is based on the history of the Arabian peninsula, it will be announced very soon."

He revealed that the motivators to create the game are "the players," as they needed something new and unique. In January, a report from Boston Consulting Group predicted that Saudi Arabia is expected to take a leading role in the gaming and esports industry as consumption is projected to reach \$6.8 billion by 2030, up from \$959 million in 2020.

The report expected an average annual compounded growth rate of 22 percent for Saudi gaming consumption.

Founded in 2020, Spoilz Games won two prizes in a game jam, organized by Nine66, a subsidiary of PIF-backed Savvy Games Group.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Africa's first hydrogen plant seen producing electricity in 2024

Reuters Cape Town

French independent power producer HDF Energy expects its green hydrogen power plant in Namibia, Africa's first, to start producing electricity by 2024, a senior company executive said on Monday.

Once operational, the 3.1 billion Namibian dollar (\$181.25 million) Swakopmund project will supply clean electricity power, 24 hours a day all-year round, boosting electricity supply in the southern African nation that imports around 40 percent of its power from neighboring South Africa.

Namibia, one of the world's sunniest and least densely populated countries, wants to

harness its vast potential for solar and wind energy to produce green hydrogen and position the country as a renewable energy hub in Africa. Hydrogen is categorized "green" when it is made with renewable power and is seen as key to help decarbonize industry, though the technology remains immature and relatively costly.

The project will see 85 MW of solar panels powering electrolyzers to produce hydrogen that can be stored.

"Yearly we can produce 142 GWh, enough for 142,000 inhabitants and that is conservative," said Nicolas Lecomte, HDF Energy director for southern Africa.

HDF Energy is also eyeing new projects across Africa and other

HIGHLIGHTS

● **The project will see 85 MW of solar panels powering electrolyzers to produce hydrogen that can be stored.**

● **HDF Energy is also eyeing new projects across Africa and other parts of the world.**

● **The EU also plans a deal with Namibia to support the country's nascent green hydrogen sector and boost its own imports of the fuel.**

parts of the world. "Soon after southern Africa you will see HDF developing projects in east Africa," Lecomte told Reuters.

The EU also plans a deal with Namibia to support the country's nascent green hydrogen sector and boost its own imports of the fuel, EU and Namibian officials said, as the bloc works to reduce its dependence on Russian energy.

Another company, Namibian-registered Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, is in talks with the country's government to secure an implementation agreement for its planned \$10 billion green hydrogen project that will produce some 350,000 tons of green hydrogen a year before 2030 for global and regional markets.

BizBriefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Forecast

Inflation to plague German economy in 2023

Germany's economy will contract next year as a dramatic rise in energy costs due to the war in Ukraine extinguishes the chances of recovery after pandemic-related lockdowns, the Ifo institute said on Monday in a U-turn from its forecast three months prior.

The institute reversed its June forecast of 3.7 percent growth for 2023 and now predicts that the German economy will contract by 0.3 percent.

At the same time, it bumped up its forecast for 2023 inflation by 6 percentage points to 9.3 percent.

For 2022, Ifo lowered its growth forecast to 1.6 percent from 2.5 percent and raised its inflation forecast to 8.1 percent from 6.8 percent.

The first quarter of 2023 will be particularly rough for consumers, said the institute.

Reuters

Forex

Sterling falls to its lowest level against euro

Sterling fell to its lowest level since early 2021 against a robust euro on Monday, while news that Britain's economy grew less than expected in July highlighted a weak growth outlook.

A broad pullback in the dollar meant there was some respite for a battered pound, which rallied 1 percent to \$1.17 — its highest in almost two weeks and up from a 37-year low hit last week at \$1.14.

But against the euro, sterling weakened further in a move analysts largely attributed to strength in the Eurozone single currency following hawkish commentary from the European Central Bank over the weekend.

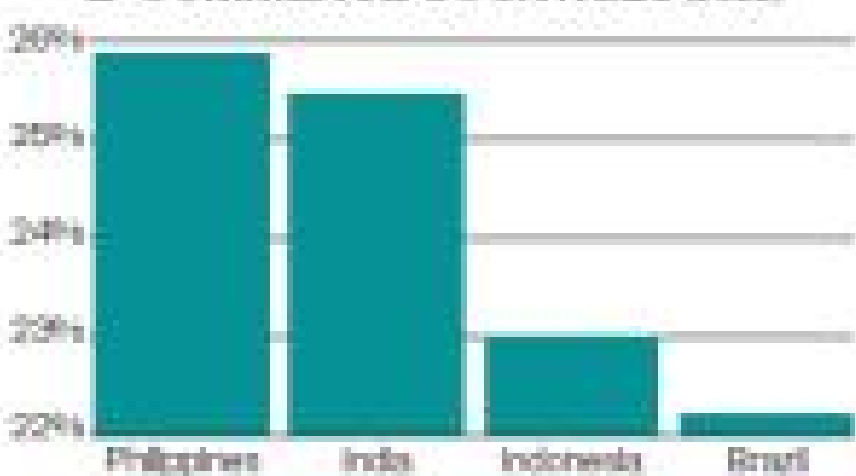
The pound fell to as low as 87.215 pence per euro, taking it back to levels last seen in early 2021.

Reuters

Chart of THE DAY

In 2022, e-commerce sales were forecast to show the highest growth in Asia and the Americas. The Philippines and India would lead the way, with online sales increasing by more than 25%. Source: Statista

FASTEST-GROWING RETAIL E-COMMERCE COUNTRIES (2022)



What We're Reading

FOR THE TRAIN OR ON THE PLANE

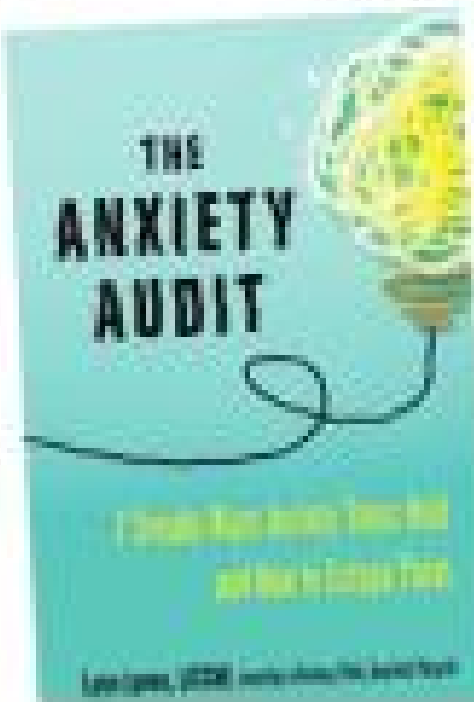
The Anxiety Audit

LYNN LYONS

Anxiety expert Lynn Lyons, whose advice appears regularly in Psychology Today and the New York Times, offers an eye-opening look at the 7 sneaky ways that anxiety and worry weave their way into our families, our friendships, and our

jobs, and provides actionable steps to reverse the cycle and reclaim our emotional

well-being, says a review published on goodreads.com. With no overly scientific or diagnostic language, it is a practical guide to untangling yourself from the grips of worry and fear.



Manufacturing

Italy industry output rises modestly in July

Italian industrial output recovered in July after two consecutive declines, rising 0.4 percent from the month before, national statistics bureau ISTAT reported on Monday.

The data was broadly in line with expectation. A Reuters survey of 10 analysts had pointed to a 0.3 percent increase.

June's data was revised marginally to show a 2 percent fall, originally reported as -2.1 percent. Despite the uptick in July, in the three-month May-to-July period output was still down 1.6 percent compared with the three months to April, the statistics bureau said.

On a work-day adjusted year-on-year basis, industrial output was down 1.4 percent in July following a -1.1 percent decline in June, ISTAT said.

July saw a strong month-on-month rise in output of investment goods. Reuters

Policy

BoJ set to end COVID-relief funding scheme

The Bank of Japan is expected to end as scheduled a pandemic-relief funding scheme this month and discuss adjustments to a policy guidance that flags the COVID-19 pandemic as the top economic risk, three sources familiar with its thinking say.

A final decision will be made at the BoJ's policy meeting on Sept. 21-22, when the board will scrutinize data to ensure Japan's persistently high coronavirus cases do not lead to a sharp drop in economic activity, the sources said. Japan's economy expanded an annualized 2.2 percent in April-June, staging a slower-than-expected rebound from a COVID-induced slump as a resurgence in infections, supply constraints and rising raw material costs weigh on consumption and output. The winding up of the scheme would reflect easing funding strains among small, service-sector firms. Reuters



People are at the center of ROSHN's strategy when it comes to designing our new communities, and the same goes for our internal organization.

David Grover

Group Chief Executive at ROSHN

Corporate

PRESS RELEASES FROM THE WORLD OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

# Mentorship Forum Middle East unveils 'Think Tank' members

Mentorship Forum Middle East has announced the members of this year's forum "Think Tank," who will come together to shape the strategy and agenda for the event's third edition taking place in Bahrain on Dec. 6. The event will be held under the patronage of Sheikhha Hessa bint Khalifa Al-Khalifa, member of the Supreme Council for Women and chairperson of INJAZ Bahrain.

The forum, which will be a hybrid event, with online participation and physical attendance at the Diplomat Radisson Blu, focuses on the fast-tracking and career progression of up-and-coming professionals and on helping organizations more effectively meet their talent development goals by harnessing the power of mentorship. Looking at current opportunities and challenges for human capital development across the region, the forum's "Think Tank," comprising a group of prominent C-suite leaders and senior HR and mentorship experts, will ensure the event highlights and encourages dialogue and action around mentorship and the elevation of its role in fostering the next generation of leaders. They will also nominate speakers where

The forum's 'Think Tank' comprises a group of prominent C-suite leaders and senior HR and mentorship experts, who will ensure the forum highlights action around mentorship.

appropriate, with the forum targeting a top lineup of business leaders and experts in training, development and mentorship as in previous editions.

This year's "Think Tank" members include: Farah Foustok, chief executive at Lazard Gulf Ltd; Nadim

**We're pleased to welcome another distinguished group of business leaders to our forum 'Think Tank,' including members that have been with us since the start.**

**Zahraa Taher**  
Managing Director at FinMark Communications

Najjar, managing director, data and analytics, Middle East and Africa at London Stock Exchange Group; Mutlaq H. Al-Morished, CEO at TASNEE; Karina Chapa, mentorship program manager, diversity and inclusion division at Saudi Aramco; Jamal Fakhro, managing partner at KPMG; Dana Buheji, group human resources and sustainability officer at National Bank of Bahrain, the forum's lead partner for a third year running; Ahmed Janahi, director - customer first at Tamkeen; Nadera Abuall, vice president — corporate communications and branding at Al-Baraka Group; Zahraa Taher, managing director at FinMark Communications, as well as a senior repre-

sentative from Gulf International Bank, soon to be nominated.

Once again, the event will comprise a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions and workshops to promote knowledge-sharing and hands-on learning that attendees can apply to their own organizations and efforts to adopt or further formalize their use of mentorship. More than 300 leading regional and international HR and mentorship experts, alongside senior business leaders and up-and-coming professionals are expected to take part.

Taher of FinMark Communications, the forum's founder and organizer, said: "We're pleased to welcome another distinguished group of business leaders to our forum 'Think Tank,' including members that have been with us since the start, making the Mentorship Forum Middle East a unique platform for supporting human capital development. We are grateful for their support and look forward to leveraging their experience and knowledge to host another dynamic and interactive event that helps raise the profile of mentorship and encourages its adoption by an even greater number of regional organizations."

## Corporate Briefs

THE BEST OF THE BEST

### New Trade Routes

#### Safeen Feeders launches new UAE-China service

AD Ports Group's Safeen Feeders has launched a new UAE-China service, deploying a recently purchased container vessel, Safeen Power, with a capacity of 3,400 TEUs.

The monthly service will connect the Chinese ports of Shanghai, Qingdao and Ningbo directly with Khalifa Port in Abu Dhabi, opening an important new trade route.

It will be Safeen Feeders' first service to call in China, as the company continues to expand its global reach. Recently, Safeen Feeders announced it would support the new India East Coast Express 2 service, which links Singapore, Colombo in Sri Lanka and Chennai, India.

China is among the UAE's top commercial partners, with bilateral commerce between China and the UAE exceeding \$75.6 billion in 2021. Additionally, around 6,000 Chinese businesses currently operate in the UAE, with a sizable Chinese population working primarily in the infrastructure and energy sectors.

### Innovative Solutions

#### LG announces first-ever Life's Good Award

LG Electronics announced that its first Life's Good Award is now under way. The entry period is open from Sept. 6 through Oct. 10. Announced at CES 2022, the Life's Good Award seeks to uncover innovative solutions aligned with LG's goal of creating a "Better Life for All." A total of \$1 million will be granted to help accelerate the development of the winning submissions.

Envisioning a sustainable world where "Life's Good" for the planet and all its inhabitants, LG continues to pursue eco-minded solutions and ideas for a greener environment and develop user-centric products and services that provide access to convenient, valuable, and novel experiences for everyone.

The Life's Good Award marks a significant step in LG's sustainability journey, helping to spread the company's "Life's Good" message around the world.

### Customer Innovation

#### VMware to showcase power of multi-cloud at GITEX

VMware is set to showcase its latest innovations in multi-cloud, apps modernization and digital experience at GITEX Technology Week from Oct. 10-14.

At its stand in Hall 7, VMware will have a strong focus on customer innovation and will show attendees how to accelerate cloud transformation, secure and empower a hybrid workforce, and connect and secure their apps, enabling them to innovate faster and drive their transformation plans.

VMware's stand will feature distinct zones representing its strategic priorities to scale cloud native platform operations, accelerate enterprise cloud transformation, and empower the hybrid workforce.

VMware will also have a presence at Global DevSlam, a transformational project by the UAE government to help coders become strategic enablers of the UAE digital economy, which will run alongside GITEX at Dubai World Trade Centre.

SPREADING KNOWLEDGE

# Volvo, UNESCO join hands for education drive in Pakistan

Students across 40 primary schools in northern Pakistan have benefited from a unique collaboration between the UN's cultural agency UNESCO, Volvo Group, and the Swedish Embassy in Pakistan.

As the project executing agency, the UNESCO Islamabad office undertook the project in close collaboration with the education department in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Volvo invested nearly \$100,000 to provide young children with the much-loved children's book "Pippi Longstocking."

The project — Providing Primary School Students Inspiring and Motivational Reading Material — was designed to enhance the learning of primary students in two districts of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan's mountainous northern region.

It aimed at improving the retention of students by creating a culture of reading and providing support to both students and teachers, and improving learning opportunities for the students through a focused approach toward teacher training and classroom strategies. It strove to improve the school-learning environment by enhancing teachers' capabilities and ensuring students had access to interactive reading materials.

To promote reading as a fun activity, "Pippi Longstocking," a story of a brave and curious girl written by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, was translated into Urdu and intro-

Primary students in Gilgit-Baltistan were introduced to the book 'Pippi Longstocking.'

duced as additional reading material.

Target schools were given a set of storybooks, along with reading and interactive teaching and learning material. Teachers were trained in active learning strategies.

The project helped 6,000 students and 77 teachers, in addition to 42,000 parents and community members,

who were widely engaged.

While the project originally introduced the active learning material and co-curricular books to the 40 target schools, other schools also benefited by borrowing them.

The project was launched in 2019 to help children in many parts of Pakistan who did not have access to

primary education. Children in rural areas and especially girls are affected more by inequalities in education.

The annual Status of Education report revealed that only 50 percent of boys and 37 percent of girls in public schools in the Gilgit-Baltistan region could read complete sentences in Urdu.

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

# ROSHN named one of Saudi Arabia's best workplaces for second year in a row

ROSHN, a leading real estate developer powered by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, has been recently awarded the Best Place to Work certification for the second year in a row. During the company's assessment, 93 percent of the employees responded to a survey illustrating the company's focus on creating a stand-out employee experience where everyone can be at their best as well as feel a sense of belonging.

The certification was based on anonymous ratings provided by employees and an HR assessment evaluating the company's people practices. Close to 20 workplace culture categories were measured, from work-life balance, leadership, and professional development opportunities to compensation, and perks and benefits.

"People are at the center of ROSHN's strategy when it comes to designing our new communi-

## FASTFACT

The certification was based on anonymous ratings provided by employees and an HR assessment evaluating the company's people practices.

ties, and the same goes for our internal organization," said David Grover, group chief executive at ROSHN. He added: "We couldn't do what we do without our amazing talented team. I want to congratulate those members of the ROSHN family who have helped in putting us among the best companies to work for in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the second consecutive year; this award is a testament to their ded-

ication and commitment during a challenging and exciting phase of ROSHN's journey."

Best Places to Work is the most definitive "Employer of Choice" certification that organizations aspire to achieve. The Best Places to Work Assessment model is built on more than 30 years of research in workplace excellence along with the best practices collected annually from over 5,000 certified companies worldwide.



I am sure I'm going to be in the final again and I will try my best to win it.  
**Ons Jabeur**  
 Tunisian tennis heroine



## Sport News

ANALYSIS

# Herve Renard offers final chances for Saudi World Cup squad at Spanish training camp

Fringe players in the 26-man group for training camp have an opportunity to cement places

John Duerden Riyadh

**Herve Renard has selected his Saudi Arabian squad for this month's Spanish training camp that will include World Cup warm-ups against Ecuador on Sept. 23 and then the US four days later, and the Frenchman looks to have ended dreams of Qatar for some and given others a tantalizing hope.**

For those in the 26 who are not automatic starters, this is likely to be the last opportunity to impress the head coach before he starts to firm up his squad for Group G games against Argentina, Poland and Mexico.

After June defeats against South American opposition Colombia and Venezuela, the Green Falcons will also be looking for better results as the countdown to Qatar really starts. All that is left is an October game against Honduras and then November tests with Iceland and Panama.

This squad is dominated by the big clubs. Eight come from Al-Hilal, five from Al-Nassr, five from Al-Shabab, three from Al-Ittihad and two from Al-Ahli despite the fact that the Jeddah giants are now playing in the second division. Just two, Firas Al-Buraikan of Al-Fateh and Abha's Riyadh Sharahili are from elsewhere.

Despite Al-Hilal's contingent, there is no room for Abdullah Al-Mayouf, which surely means that the goalkeeper's international career is over.



Herve Renard has selected his Saudi squad for this month's Spanish training camp that will include World Cup warm-ups against Ecuador on Sept. 23 and the US. AFP

Many see the Al-Hilal No. 1 as the best in the country, but the 35-year-old has not made the cut. It is not his form that has cost him a place.

In 2019, Al-Mayouf announced his retirement from the international game before changing his mind earlier this year and making himself available, but it has not made a difference to Renard. It means that Mohammed Al-Owais,

who is No. 2 at Al-Hilal and has not played yet this season, is likely to be the No. 1 for his country while Al-Mayouf keeps playing for his club but can take a rest this November and December.

Al-Mayouf accepted the decision with good grace.

"I do not wish to discuss the issue of joining the national team," he said in a television interview.

"Coach Renard has his opinion and has made his choice and I respect his view. I wish the group of players that will participate in the World Cup in Qatar all the best."

Fahad Al-Muwallad returns to the team despite serving a ban for failing a dope test. The winger left Al-Ittihad earlier this month to join Al-Shabab but has yet to play at all this season. Renard is known to

rate the 27-year-old who needs to demonstrate that he is still sharp despite his inactivity.

That is also the case for midfielder Mohamed Kanno, who has also been banned from domestic action as a punishment for signing a contract with two clubs. Kanno's energy and drive were apparent during qualification and, once more, the Al-Hilal man has much to do in Spain.

TENNIS

## 7 things we learned from a historic 2022 US Open

Reem Abulleil New York

A historic US Open has come to a close, one that started with a 40-year-old legend bidding the sport farewell and ended with a teenager becoming the youngest world No. 1 in ATP history.

Here's what we learned from the past fortnight in New York.

### 1 Future of men's tennis in good hands

The 23,000-strong crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday was so hyped for Carlos Alcaraz, he was getting standing ovations for shots he almost made.

The Spaniard had already given New York a taste of what he can do when he marched to the US Open quarterfinals last year as an 18-year-old ranked 55 in the world.

Fast-forward 12 months and Alcaraz has become the youngest world No. 1 in ATP history and has clinched a maiden Grand Slam title, fulfilling two lifelong dreams in the City of Dreams.

En route to the US Open crown, Alcaraz dazzled spectators with his turbo-charged movement, flashy shot-making, unshakeable mental strength, and oozing charisma.

He fought through three consecutive five-setters before reaching the final and then played Casper Ruud like he wasn't fatigued and as if history wasn't on the line.

"He's one of these few rare talents that comes up every now and then in sports," said Ruud of the 19-year-old.

John McEnroe described Alcaraz as "the best thing to happen to

tennis in a long time" and that assessment seems pretty unanimous among anyone who has watched him play.

With Novak Djokovic unable to contest the US Open due to his vaccination status that prevents him from entering the US, and Rafael Nadal falling to 24-year-old Frances Tiafoe in the fourth round, the fortnight in New York gave way for the younger generation to make a statement and they certainly delivered.

Tiafoe had former First Lady Michelle Obama and the rest of the stadium on the edges of their seats as he duelled with Alcaraz in the semifinals.

Alcaraz and 21-year-old Jannik Sinner played one of the highest-quality tennis matches in recent history in the quarterfinals, which saw the former save a match point on his way to a five-set triumph.

### 2 Swiatek setting a high bar

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek is so far ahead in the rankings, she has more points than the world's No. 2 and No. 3 combined.

The 21-year-old picked up a third Grand Slam title, second of the year, and first on hard courts, by defeating Tunisian Ons Jabeur in the final.

At a tournament where she didn't feel or play her best, openly disliked the balls, and hit an enormous 197 unforced errors through seven matches, Swiatek once again separated herself from the pack and showed she has a solution for every problem she faces on a match court.

### 3 Jabeur and Ruud's time will come

They may have walked away with runner-up plates instead of champion trophies but Jabeur and Ruud have every reason to believe they can win majors.

They have reached two Grand Slam finals each this season and put up respectable fights in their title deciders in New York over the weekend.

Jabeur and Ruud both leave the US Open ranked No. 2 in the world and with something to chase.

Given how they've steadily progressed so far, it's hard to imagine they won't get over the final hurdle at the majors one day.

### 4 Serena's legacy palpable across both tours

If the US Open was indeed the last professional tournament of Serena Williams' career, then it's fair to say it was a fitting finale.

The American legend, who had barely played any matches in over a year, got through her first two rounds, knocking out No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit along the way, before succumbing to Ajla Tomljanovic with a battling performance in the last-32 stage.

The buildup to the tournament as well as opening week was all about Serena and it gave everyone a chance to pay tribute to the 40-year-old and her unquantifiable legacy.

Players Naomi Osaka, Coco Gauff, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Tiafoe were in the stands for her matches, irrespective of how it affected their own schedules.

Swiatek mastered up the courage to finally walk up to her and ask for a photo. Yes, that's world No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Everywhere you looked around the grounds at the US Open, you could see people she inspired to become professional players.

Osaka and Gauff say they wouldn't have picked up a racquet without the influence of Serena and Venus Williams.

If this US Open taught us anything, it's that Serena is never going to disappear from tennis. She is everywhere around us on tour in the spirit of the countless people she inspired.

### 5 Ranking jumps for Gauff, Kyrgios

The 18-year-old Gauff makes her top-10 debut on Monday on the heels of reaching the US Open quarterfinals.

The American teenager, who reached the French Open final in June, continues to impress both on the court with her constantly improving game, and off it with her eloquent and wise statements in her press conferences. The new world No. 8 is in the fourth spot on the Race to the WTA Finals.

Meanwhile, Nick Kyrgios returns to the top-20 for the first time since February 2020. The Wimbledon finalist was devastated after losing to Karen Khachanov in the US Open quarters and feels like he missed out on a chance to win his first major. Still, he backed up his Wimbledon run with a title in Washington, DC and a strong showing in New York.

### 6 Narratives shifting across both tours

For the last few years, people have wrongfully criticized the WTA tour for the lack of a dominant force at the top. Meanwhile, the men's circuit had the seemingly everlasting presence of the "Big Three" to rely on, which was exciting for their fans but equally predictable.

With Swiatek now emerging as a consistent threat on the women's side — scooping seven titles in 2022, including two majors — and Jabeur making back-to-back Slam finals and capturing trophies in Madrid and Berlin, it's impossible to label the WTA as volatile anymore.

A look at the men's quarterfinals lineup at the US Open, which featured players aged 27 and under, indicates the ATP will soon enter a period of volatility, with draws becoming more and more open and big titles up for grabs.

### 7 There's more in the Spanish pipeline, history for the Philippines

In the juniors at the US Open, Spain's Martin Landaluce clinched the boys' singles crown, while Alexandra Eala made history as the first player from the Philippines to win a Grand Slam junior singles title.

Both players train at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca, Spain, and cite the 22-time major champion as their biggest inspiration.

Add to that the fact that Ruud has been practicing at Nadal's academy for several years as well and you realize it's been quite the tournament for Mallorca.

## Sport Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

### Tennis

#### Jabeur to play on home soil in Tunisia WTA

Tunisian tennis heroine and US Open finalist Ons Jabeur is to play in a WTA 250 tournament on home soil for the first time in October, the North African country's tennis association said Monday.

The news came after Jabeur on Saturday for a second time missed becoming the first Arab or African woman to win a Grand Slam title, defeated by Polish world No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Tunisian Tennis Federation (FTT) chief Salma Mouelhi told AFP that world No. 2 Jabeur would take part in the Jasmin Open in the coastal city of Monastir on Oct. 3-9.

After her defeat on Saturday Jabeur said she had "nothing to regret." AFP

### American football

#### Brady's Bucs open NFL season with 19-3 win

Tom Brady had a frustrating start to the first match of his 23rd NFL season but a familiar finish as his Tampa Bay Buccaneers downed the Dallas Cowboys 19-3 in Texas.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion Brady was sacked twice and threw one interception in a game where defenses dominated.

But a disappointing night for the Cowboys was made even worse when quarterback Dak Prescott departed late in the fourth quarter with an injury to his throwing hand.

"We have a lot to clean up," said Brady after the Buccaneers struggled to get the ball into the end zone. AFP



### Cricket

#### England cap Test revival with series win

Two series wins. Six victories in seven matches. Relentless entertainment. Smiles back on the faces of players and fans.

It has been quite the revival for England's new-look test team. England returned to the Oval on Monday to speedily knock off the 33 runs required to win the deciding third Test against South Africa, completing a sweep of series victories this summer in a successful start to the new era under captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

Resuming on 97-0 chasing 130 to win on Day 5, England took barely 25 minutes to seal a nine-wicket victory, finishing on 130-1. That clinched the series 2-1, to go with England's 3-0 win over world Test champion New Zealand. AP



'I have complications in my childhood just like everybody else,' actress Jennifer Lawrence told AFP about her inspiration for 'Causeway,' in which she plays a wounded US Army engineer who has a strained relationship with her mother.



# Finally

## TheSix

### What to watch

In celebration of the 74th Emmy Awards, which took place in Los Angeles on Monday, we take a look at some of the nominated shows available to stream in the Middle East on OSN+.



#### 'Succession'

The black comedy-drama series centers on the Roy family, the dysfunctional owners of a global media and entertainment conglomerate, who are fighting for control of the company.



#### 'The White Lotus'

The satirical anthology series follows the wealthy guests and employees of the fictional White Lotus resort chain, whose stay becomes affected by their various dysfunctions.



#### 'Hacks'

Hannah Einbinder and Jean Smart star as a young comedy writer and a legendary stand-up comedienne, respectively, tangled in a complicated professional relationship.



#### 'Barry'

The critically acclaimed black comedy series follows the misadventures of a hitman-turned-actor (Bill Hader), who falls in love with a fellow actress.



#### 'Scenes from a Marriage'

The adaptation of Ingar Bergmann's 1973 Swedish TV miniseries about a marriage falling apart stars Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain in the lead roles.



#### 'Insecure'

Created by and starring Issa Rae, the comedy series looks at the friendship of two modern-day black women, as well as all of their experiences and tribulations.

CLOSE UP

## Saudi influencer stuns at NYFW

Arab News Dubai

**Saudi social media influencer Model Roz is treating her 14.2 million Instagram fans to a sneak peek of New York Fashion Week.**

The Jubail-born Riyadh-raised model, who prefers to go by her social media name, is currently based in Los Angeles but hopped on a flight to attend the fashionable festivities taking place in New York this week.

She attended the Naeem Khan show in a blue feathered mini dress, before hitting the red carpet at Bloomingdale's 150th Anniversary party in a glamorous Caroline Herrera gown.

The model, who has 1.6 million fans on TikTok, was then spotted at New York's Rainbow Room wearing a luxurious green silk gown by Maison Margiela before showing off a daring look with crystal-fringed cutouts at the PatBo fashion show.

She took in the Brazilian brand's latest collection while sitting in the coveted front row and posed for a number of paparazzi shots as she left the venue.

Roz made headlines around the world in 2019 when she modeled for a Victoria's Secret's Pink

campaign, showing off the label's sportswear in a sun-drenched video.

The model, with platinum blonde locks and Pinterest-worthy style, has also taken part in campaigns for US brand Guess and launched a makeup range with The Balm.

Roz moved to the US in 2013 to pursue a degree in interior design, but her hopes of becoming a model pushed her to give it a shot.

"Ever since I was young, becoming a model was always a dream of mine. It was a bit difficult for me as a Saudi woman ... but to me nothing is impossible" Roz previously told Arab News.

Challenging stereotypes proved to be one of the major hurdles Roz had to face, but "with my persistence, I was able to prove to brands that I am not just famous ... I am also influential to many people," Roz said.

The model's Instagram feed is littered with photographs of her various advertising campaigns, as well as visits to many a product launch party — from NYX Cosmetics events to TikTok gatherings, if there is anything pop culture-related going on in Los Angeles, chances are you will spot Roz in the well-heeled crowd.



Right: Model Roz showed off a glamorous Maison Margiela gown while in New York. AFP

The influencer is attending New York Fashion Week. Getty Images



MOVIE BUZZ

## Stars gather at Toronto Film Fest awards show

Arab News Dubai

The Toronto Film Festival held its Tribute Awards at the city's historic Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Sunday night.

Honorees this year included the ensemble cast of Michael Grandage's "My Policeman," Brendan Fraser, who is sparking Oscars buzz for his role in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," and British director Sam Mendes.

"Art is about taking a risk and you should know they took a chance on me," Fraser said of the film's writer Samuel D. Hunter and Aronofsky while accepting his award.

Another highlight was Michelle Yeoh receiving the Share Her Journey Groundbreaker Award.

Brendan Fraser



EDGED OUT

## Mena Massoud reacts to missed 'Star Wars' role

Arab News Dubai

When it was clear that upcoming Star Wars show "Ahsoka" would be revisiting characters from the popular animated series "Star Wars: Rebels," the question of who would play fan-favorite character Ezra Bridger loomed large on fans' minds. "Aladdin" actor Mena Massoud was a strong favorite with rumors swirling that he was a shoo-in for the role.

It came as a surprise then when part-Iranian actor and filmmaker Eman Esfandi was announced as the new Ezra Bridger. Fan reactions have been largely positive given how close Esfandi resembles the character.

However, the announcement meant Massoud was now free to address the rumors surrounding his casting.

"Glad the rumors will stop now," Massoud posted on Twitter. "Never really had a fair shot at it unfortunately (one self-tape months ago) but just wasn't meant for me, I guess. Can't deny the dude looks exactly like Ezra. Hope it's done justice!"

INTERVIEW

## Meet Evlin Abdullah-Khalifa, the newly crowned Miss Universe Bahrain

Shyama Krishna Kumar Dubai

Bahraini Russian model and pianist Evlin Abdullah-Khalifa, who was named this year's Miss Universe Bahrain, says she is grateful for the life-changing experience of competing in the beauty pageant.

"(The) beauty pageant changed me a lot. In this short time, I have become a totally different person, a better version of myself," the 24-year-old said in an interview with Arab News after her win was announced on Sunday.

She was chosen by a judging panel that included Egyptian actress Mai Omar, the Black Eyed



Miss Universe Bahrain Evlin Abdullah-Khalifa (center). Supplied

Peas' J'ray Soul, and influencer Faryal Makhdoom, among others.

Coming in first runner-up place was 18-year-old Lujane Yacoub and filling in the third spot with a tie at second runner-up were Mariam Naji from Rafi and Shereen Ahmed

from Manama.

"My main purpose in life is to find success (and) to believe in myself because I struggled a lot with this problem in my life. And I realized that whenever you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything.

And I want to say to everybody watching to believe in themselves just as ... me and my sisters believed in ourselves," added an emotional Abdullah-Khalifa.

The glamorous Miss Universe Bahrain 2022 beauty pageant kicked off on Sept. 7 with a series of online episodes, with the final episode premiering on Sunday night to reveal the new beauty queen.

During the final Q&A segment, Abdullah-Khalifa was asked: "When do you think a woman becomes empowered?" Her winning answer captured the hearts of the jury "I think a woman becomes

empowered when she knows herself, when she knows her values, and when she knows what she is capable of. An empowered woman is a role model of the people and whose actions lead to success. And I'm here to be that woman to lead all the people to success and believe in themselves."

Born to a Bahraini father and Russian mother, the winner declares herself to be an advocate for education and also seeks to raise awareness about anorexia, which she suffers from.

The 71st Miss Universe pageant — that Khalifa will compete in — has been postponed to 2023.